

YUKITO KISHIRO



ALITA
Battle Angel
ALITA

Last Order

VOL. 1

OMNIBUS

ALITA
ALITA
Last
Order



STORY & ART BY YUKITO KISHIRO

OUTLINE

The Future: The development of cyborg technology cheapened human life. The sky city Tipharee dominated life on the surface, and directly beneath it, built on the trash it threw away, was a unique community called the Scrapyard. Amid a tumultuous city full of crime, people struggled to survive.

It was there that Ido, a cybernetic doctor in the Scrapyard, found the head of a cyborg several hundred years old in a pile of rubble. Miraculously resurrected, the girl was named Alita. She had lost her memory, but her flesh remembered the legendary martial artist Panzer Kunst. With Ido by her side, she became a bounty hunter and started down the path to self-discovery.

But an incident caused by the genius Tipharean scientist known as Nova led to Ido's death. Alita herself was arrested as a criminal by the Tipharean organization G.I.B. She was then forced to become a TUNED, an agent of Tipharee, and began to hunt down Nova, who held the key to Ido's resurrection.

After a series of battles, Alita cornered and defeated Nova, but he revealed a shocking truth: The brains of the people of Tipharee had been replaced with microchips. Even they were nothing more than experimental guinea pigs.

Are Tiphareans human or machine? The secret revealed by Nova turns Tipharee upside down, and leads Alita into new battles...



Alita (Yoko):

A cyborg girl discovered in a pile of trash. She lost her memory, but her body knows the legendary art of Panzer Kunst.



Nova:

A brilliant genius from Tipharee. An obsessive and extremely dangerous man, he feels bound by no social norms.

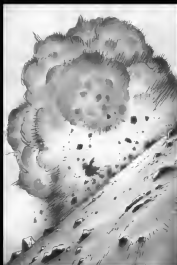


Best of
Cyber

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PHASE 01

*THE
FIRST THING
I REMEMBER...*



*...IS A RUST-COLORED
WASTELAND.*





***Neuron**: a nerve cell that consists of a soma (cell body), dendrites (signal receptors), and an axon (a signal conductor).

***Nanomachine**: A microscopic, molecular-sized robot composed of individual elementary particles.

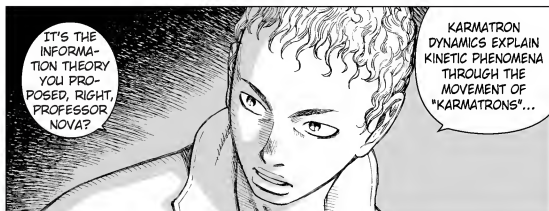


IT DEPENDS ON
THE LOCATION, OF
COURSE, BUT EVEN IF
FORTY PERCENT OF THE
BRAIN TISSUE'S TOTAL
MASS IS LOST, THE
NEURO-MAP CAN BE
RECONSTRUCTED—

—IF THE REST OF
THE NEURONAL PROTEIN
STRUCTURE IS INTACT.
JUST REQUIRES A NANO-
MACHINE* NEUROANALYSIS
OF THE SYNAPSE
STRUCTURE, BASED ON
MY OWN "KARMATRON
DYNAMICS THEORY"...

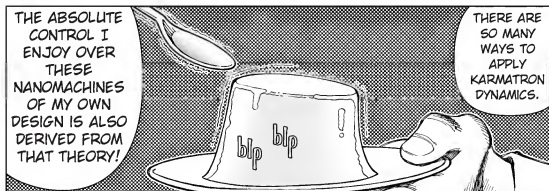
IN SUCH A
FASHION, WE CAN
ALMOST PERFECTLY
RECONSTRUCT THE
BRAIN—GIVE IT THE SAME
MEMORIES, EMOTIONS,
INTELLIGENCE—
AS IT HAD BEFORE
DEATH.

IN OTHER WORDS,
WE CAN BRING A UNIQUE
HUMAN BEING BACK FROM
SO-CALLED *DEATH*!



IT'S THE INFORMATION THEORY YOU PROPOSED, RIGHT, PROFESSOR NOVA?

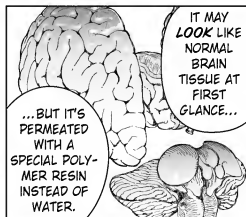
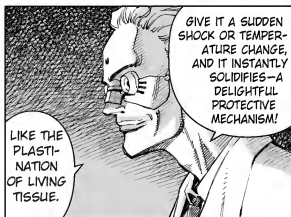
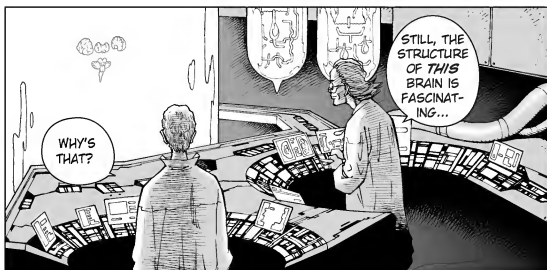
KARMATRON DYNAMICS EXPLAIN KINETIC PHENOMENA THROUGH THE MOVEMENT OF "KARMATRONS"...

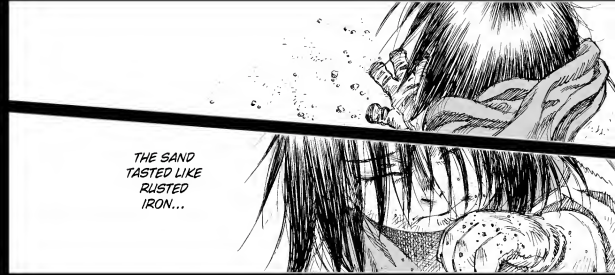


THE ABSOLUTE CONTROL I ENJOY OVER THESE NANOMACHINES OF MY OWN DESIGN IS ALSO DERIVED FROM THAT THEORY!

THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS TO APPLY KARMATRON DYNAMICS.







THE SAND
TASTED LIKE
RUSTED
IRON...



...PERHAPS
IT HAD BEEN
SOAKED IN
HUMAN
BLOOD.

s h a a a a a a

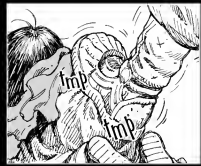


THIS BRAT'S
BODY IS A
MACHINE!

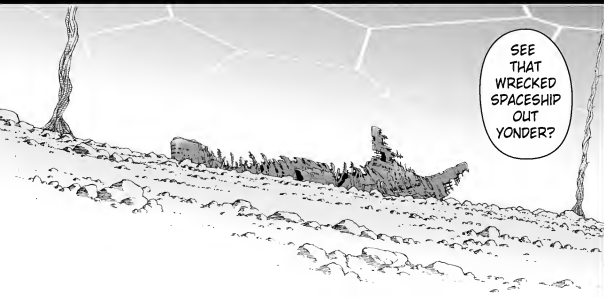


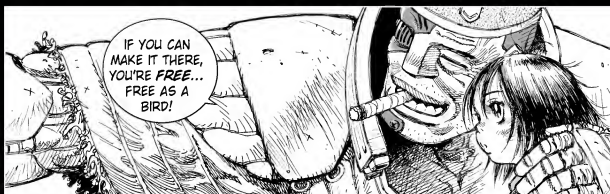
spak

HMPH!



trp





IF YOU CAN
MAKE IT THERE,
YOU'RE **FREE**...
FREE AS A
BIRD!



IF A **BAD** GIRL
GOES BY, SHE
BLOWS UP-
KABOOM!

THEN
SHE'S
DEAD,
LIKE YOUR
FRIEND
THERE.



BUT THERE
ARE **BOMBS**
BURIED IN
THE SAND
ALONG THE
WAY.

shaaa



fwmp

tump



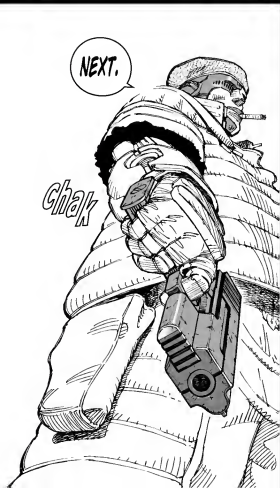
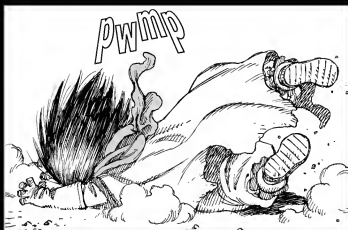
pat
pat

BUT YOU?
YOU'RE A
GOOD GIRL,
SO YOU'LL
DO FINE!



pwap

NOW
GO ON!









shaa aa

I REMEMBER
AN AWFUL
ECHO IN
MY EARS—



s h a a a o o o

IT WAS
JUST THE
RUSHING
OF THE
WIND.

OR
MAYBE...



STRANGELY,
I WASN'T
AFRAID.



JUST FORLORN.
LOST...



MY
HOME WAS
BURNED
TO THE
GROUND.

MY
MOM
AND
DAD...



THAT'S
MY
DOG.

YOU
EVER
HAD A
DOG?

...AND
HERSHEY
TOO.

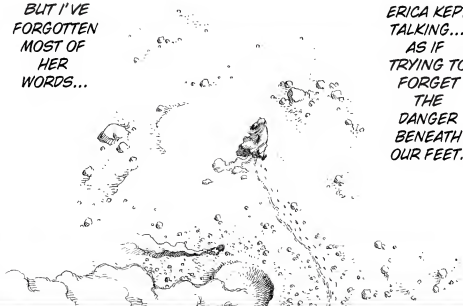


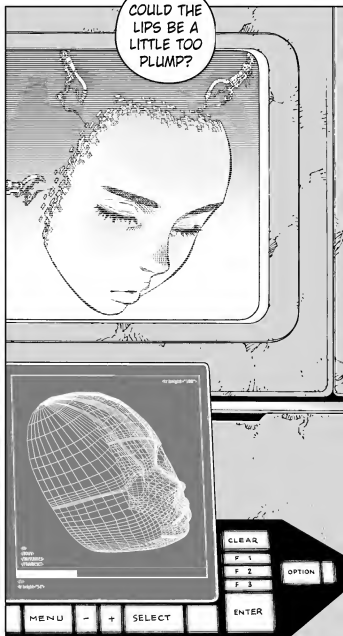
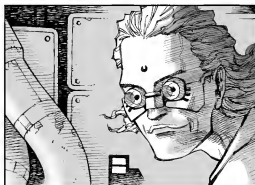
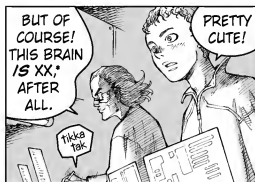
shk



BUT I'VE
FORGOTTEN
MOST OF
HER
WORDS...

ERICA KEPT
TALKING...
AS IF
TRYING TO
FORGET
THE
DANGER
BENEATH
OUR FEET.





*XX: The X and Y chromosomes determine gender: A male has an X and a Y, a female has two Xs.



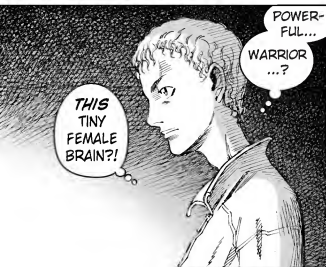
HER DIS-
COVERER
CALLED HER
THAT. WE
DON'T KNOW
HER REAL
NAME.

ALITA
...



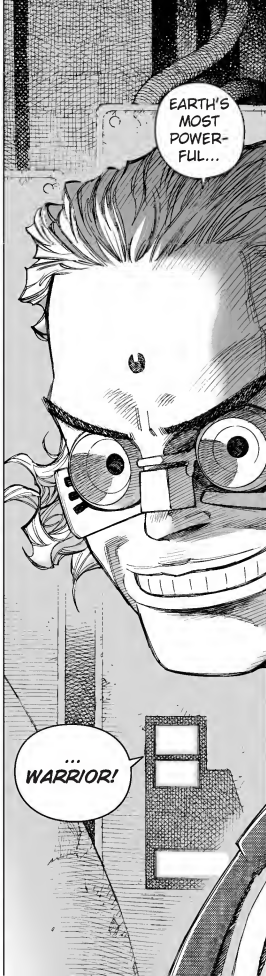
WHEN SHE
PLAYED
MOTORBALL,
SHE WAS "THE
ANGEL OF
DEATH."

AND
WHEN SHE
WAS A G.I.B.
AGENT, THEY
CALLED HER
"A-1."



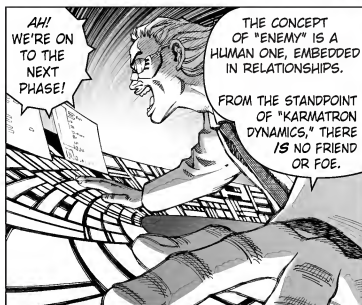
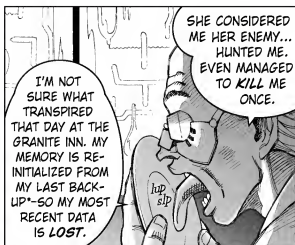
THIS
TINY
FEMALE
BRAIN?!

POWER-
FUL...
WARRIOR
...?

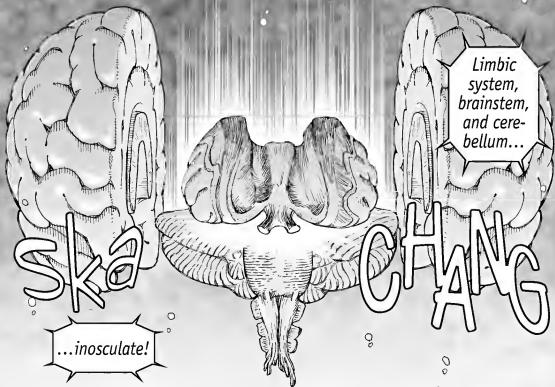


EARTH'S
MOST
POWER-
FUL...

...
WARRIOR!



"Last backup": Nova has a reserve brain chip in his stomach, which backs up the main chip's memories during sleep. The current Nova's memory only goes back as far as the night before Alita broke into the Granite Inn.



Limbic system,
brainstem,
and cerebellum...

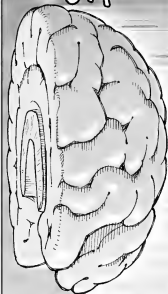
...inosculate!

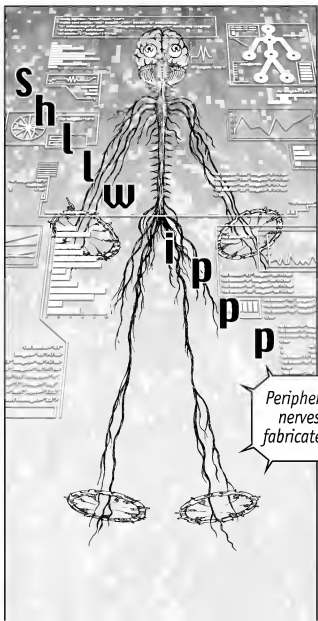
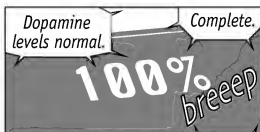
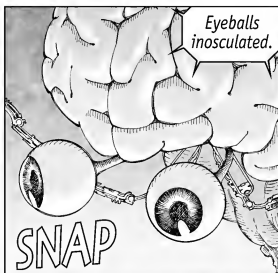
New
cerebral
cortex hemi-
spheres...

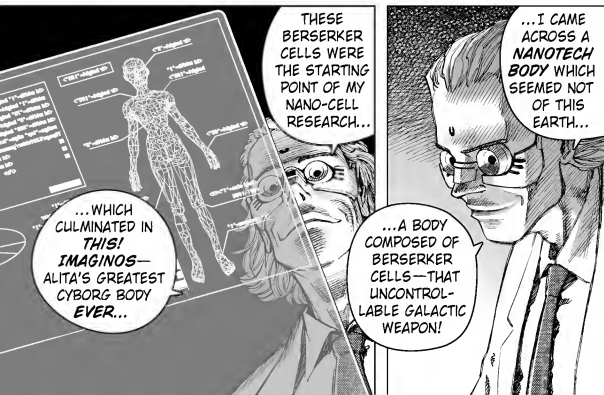
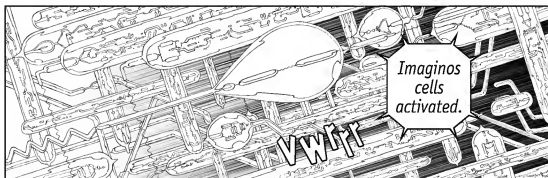


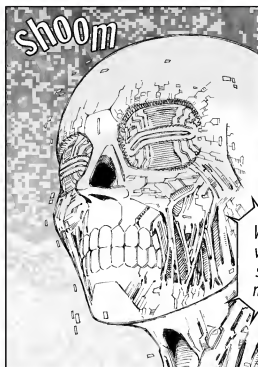
...inosculate!

wssh

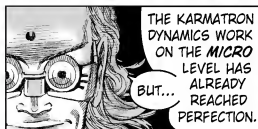








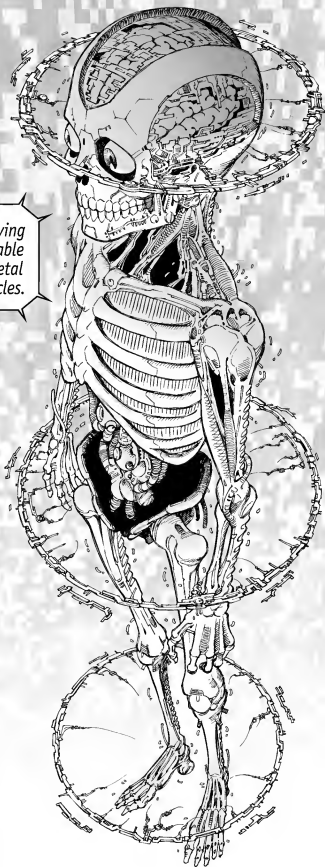
Weaving
variable
skeletal
muscles.

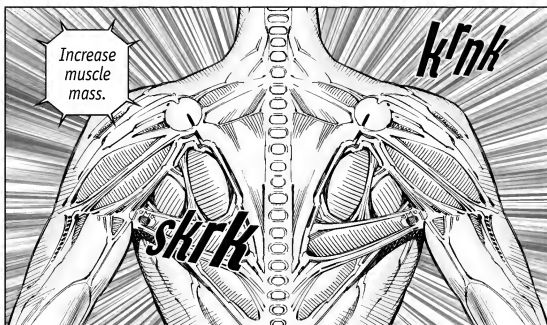


THE KARMATRON
DYNAMICS WORK
ON THE *MICRO*
LEVEL HAS
BUT... ALREADY
REACHED
PERFECTION.



...ON THE
MACRO LEVEL,
THE WORK
IS STILL
FAR FROM
COMPLETE.





Increase
muscle
mass.

skrk

k'rk

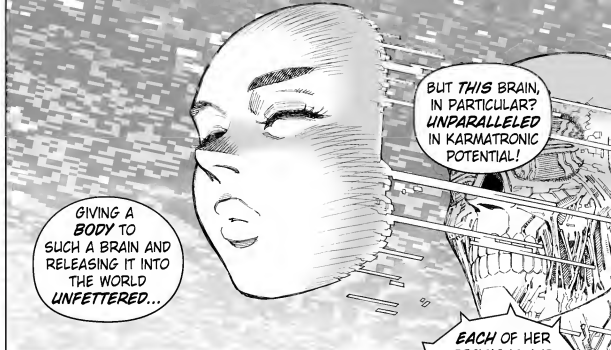


Nano-
tubular
circulatory
system
calibrated
...

EVERYTHING IN
THIS UNIVERSE
EMITS KARMATRON
THROUGH ITS VERY
EXISTENCE! **THAT**
IS HOW ALL
THINGS ARE
INTERCONNECTED.

AND THE
**HUMAN
BRAIN**
IS THE
GREATEST
KARMATRON
ENGINE
OF ALL.

AFTER ALL,
MACRO
KARMATRON
DYNAMICS
THEORY IS
THE VERY
SCIENCE OF
HUMAN
DESTINY!



GIVING A
BODY TO
SUCH A BRAIN AND
RELEASING IT INTO
THE WORLD
UNFETTERED...

BUT *THIS* BRAIN,
IN PARTICULAR?
UNPARALLELED
IN KARMATRONIC
POTENTIAL!

EACH OF HER
DECISIONS AND
ACTIONS WILL BRING
ABOUT A DYNAMIC
EXCHANGE OF
KARMATRONS ON A
MASSIVE SCALE!

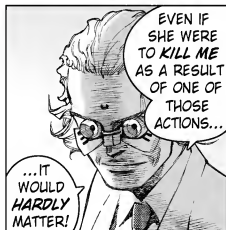


HEH,
HEH, HEH!
NOW
DOESN'T
THAT EX-
CITE YOU?



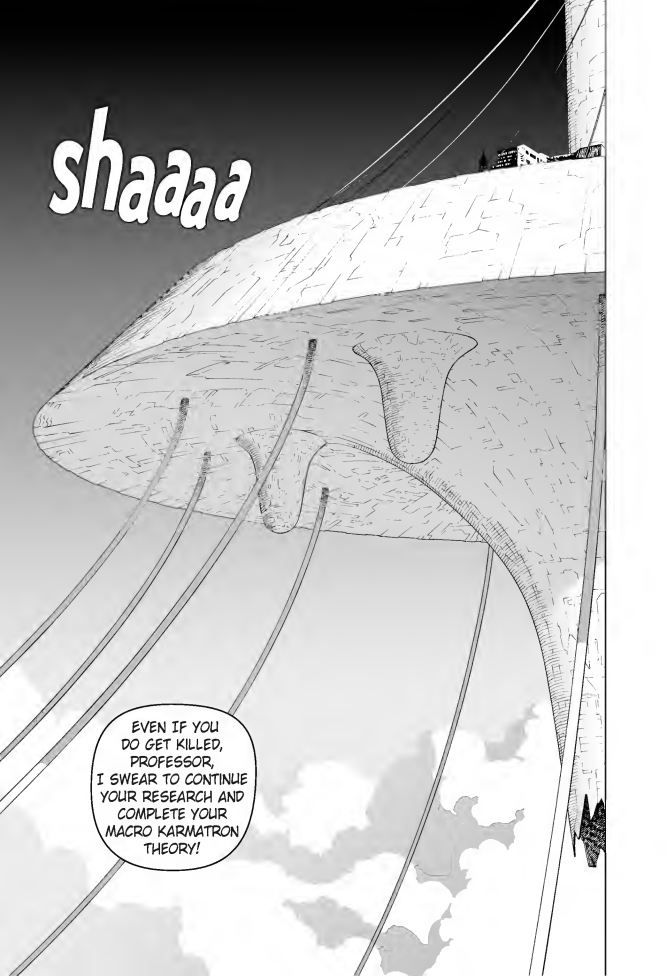
IN ALL OF
TIPHARES, I'VE
NEVER MET AN
ADULT LIKE
YOU!

YOU TRULY
ARE AMAZING,
PROFESSOR
NOVA!



EVEN IF
SHE WERE
TO **KILL ME**
AS A RESULT
OF ONE OF
THOSE
ACTIONS...

...IT
WOULD
HARDLY
MATTER!



shaaaa

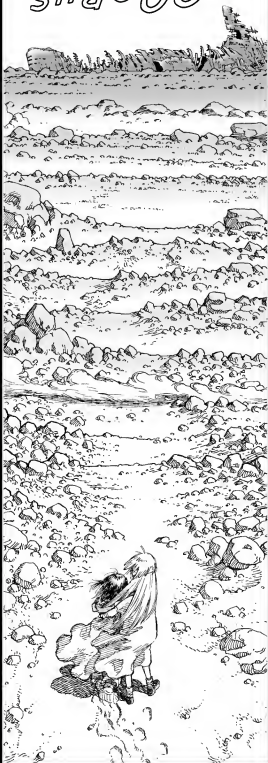
EVEN IF YOU
DO GET KILLED,
PROFESSOR,
I SWEAR TO CONTINUE
YOUR RESEARCH AND
COMPLETE YOUR
MACRO KARMATRON
THEORY!

...AND
WE
BOTH
STOOD
STILL.

AND
THEN
ERICA
FELL
SILENT...



shaooo



WE HAD
TRAVELED
MORE THAN
ONE HUNDRED
STEPS...

I LOOKED
BACK.

...
BUT
WE
KNEW WE
COULDN'T
GO ANY
FARTHER.

WE FELT
INTUITIVELY
THAT WE
COULDN'T TAKE
ANOTHER STEP
SAFELY.

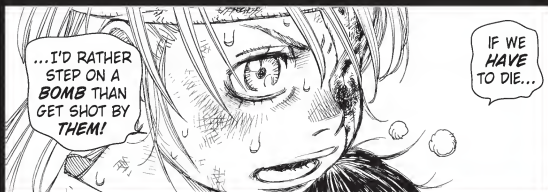


SC-
SCARED!
ERICA...I'M
SCARED!

sob!

AS ERICA
FALTERED,
FOR THE FIRST
TIME FEAR OVER-
CAME ME...

-SNFF-



...I'D RATHER
STEP ON A
BOMB THAN
GET SHOT BY
THEM!

IF WE
HAVE
TO DIE...



WHERE
WILL I
GO IF I
DIE?



shaooo

AM I
GONNA
DIE?

PROUD,
PROUD
ERICA.

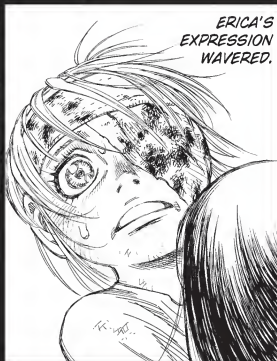
AND I...
I WAS SO
YOUNG...



Gulp

I COULDN'T
HAVE KNOWN
AT THE TIME...

...THAT SHE
TOO WAS BAT-
TLING LONE-
LINESS AND
FEAR.



ERICA'S
EXPRESSION
WAVERED.



LET'S JUST
KEEP WALKING,
LOOKING UP AT
THE SKY.



THAT
WAY, I'M
SURE
THAT...

...WE CAN
GO TO HEAVEN-
TOGETHER.

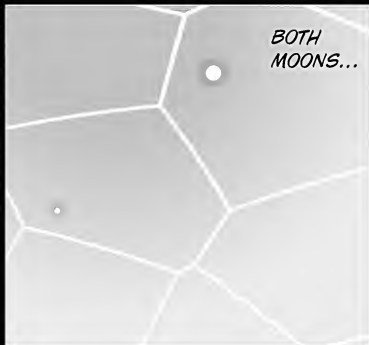
...TO
DROP **BOTH**
MOONS ON
THEIR HEADS!
HOW ABOUT
IT?

WHEN WE
GET THERE,
WE'LL ASK
GOD...

shadaaao



**BOTH
MOONS...**



...THAT
THE
MOONS
REALLY
WERE
COMING
DOWN.



AT
FIRST
I
THOUGHT...

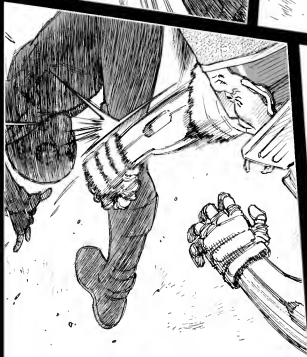
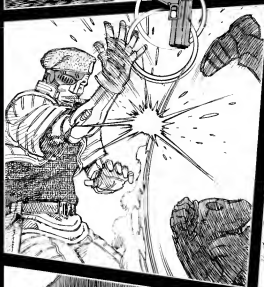
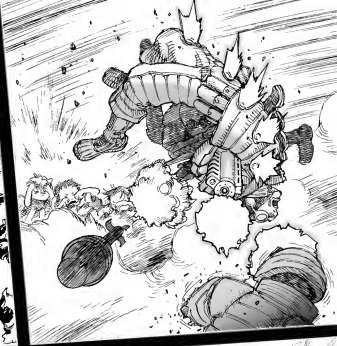


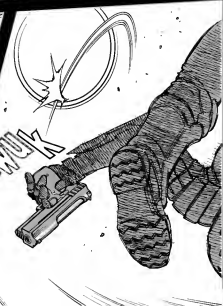
I ONLY
VAGUELY
REMEMBER
WHAT
HAPPENED
AFTER THAT.

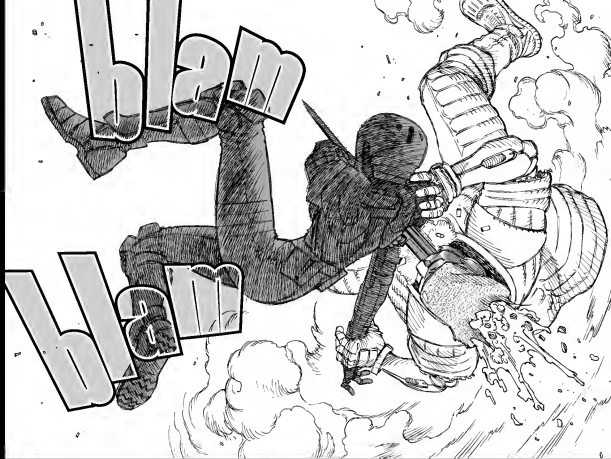
THERE
WAS A
FLASH
OF
LIGHT.

THE
GROUND
SHOOK
VIOLENTLY.

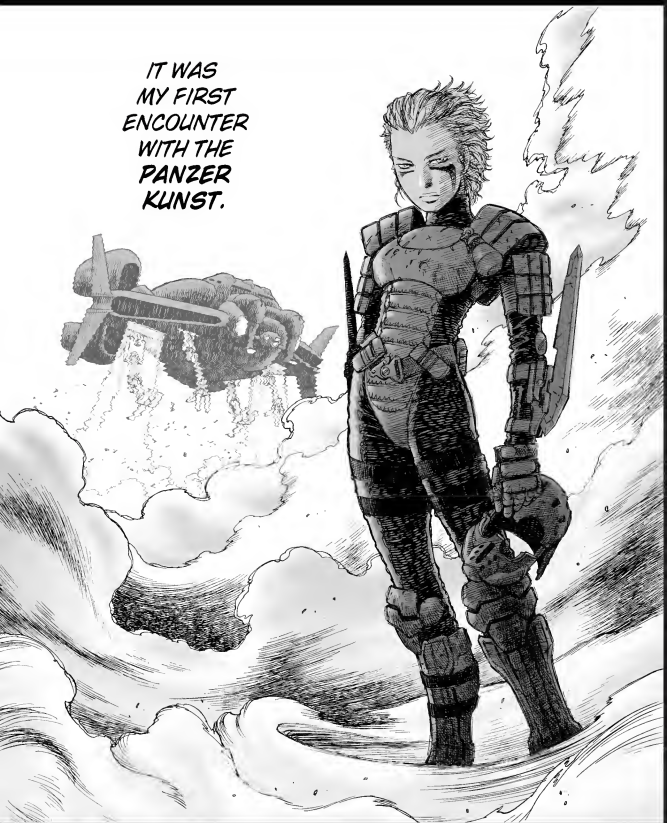






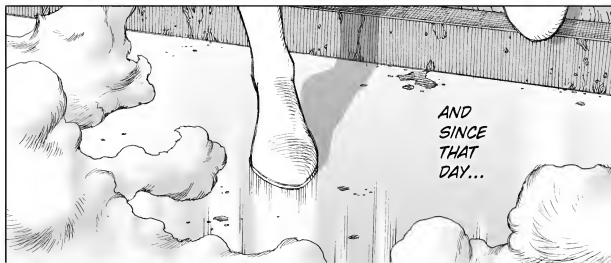
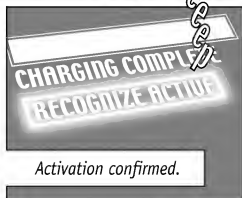


IT WAS
MY FIRST
ENCOUNTER
WITH THE
PANZER
KUNST.





...HAS
IT BEEN
SINCE
THAT
DAY?



AND
SINCE
THAT
DAY...

...HOW
MUCH
HAVE I
CHANGED?





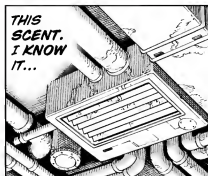


PHASE 02
What Happened?



WHERE...
WHERE
AM I?

WHAT
IS THIS
PLACE?



THIS
SCENT.
I KNOW
IT...



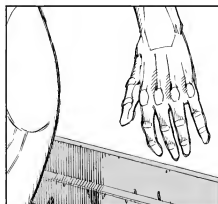
MY
INSTINCTS—
TRYING
TO
WARN
ME!

SOMETHING IN
THE BACK OF
MY MIND—
TINGLING.

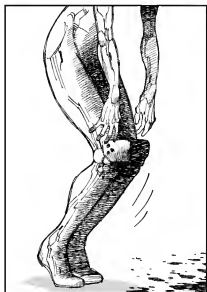
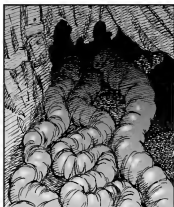
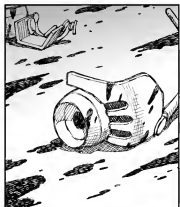
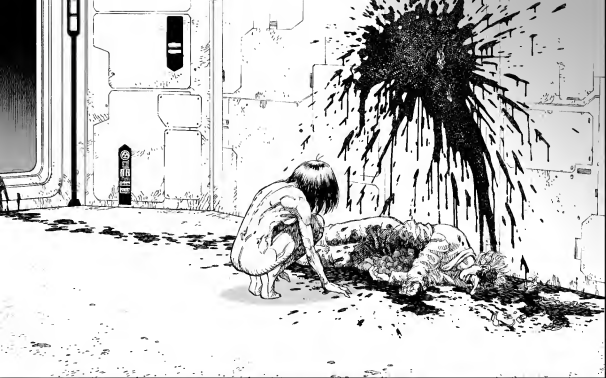
WHAT IS IT?

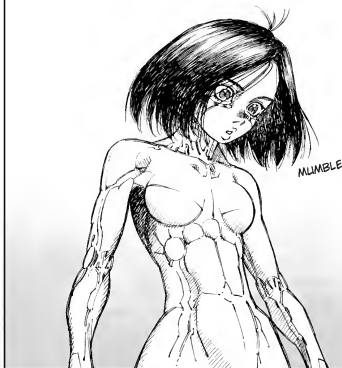


IT'S
THE
SMELL
OF...
BLOOD.



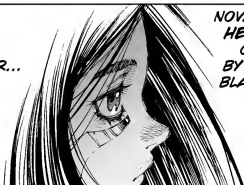






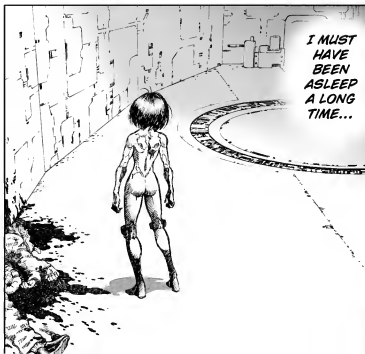
NOT ME...
I DIDN'T
DO IT...

IS THAT
WHAT—?
I DON'T
REMEMBER...



NOVA'S
HEAD,
CUT
BY MY
BLADE.

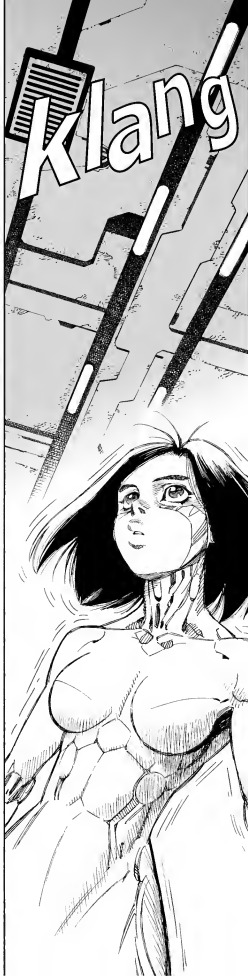
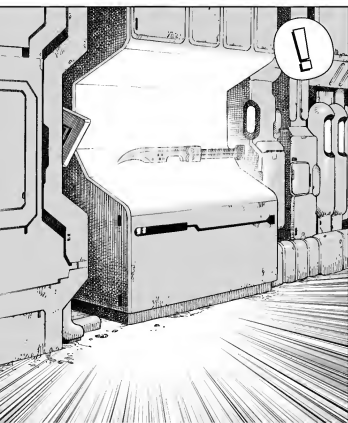
HE'S
BEEN
DEAD FOR
FOUR
OR FIVE
DAYS.

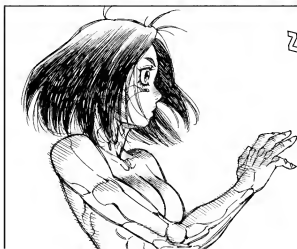
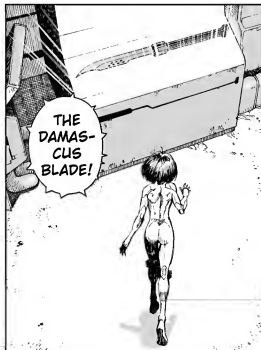
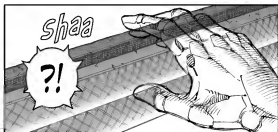
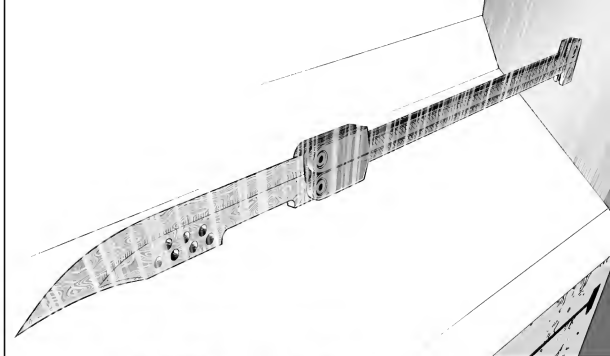


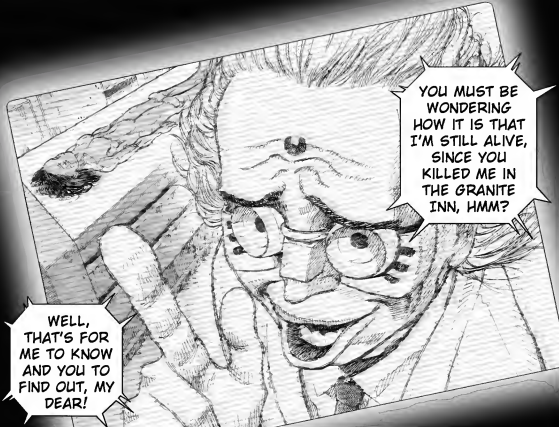
I MUST
HAVE
BEEN
ASLEEP
A LONG
TIME...



AND
WHAT A
SLOPPY
JOB...

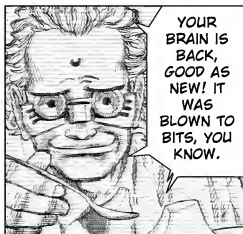




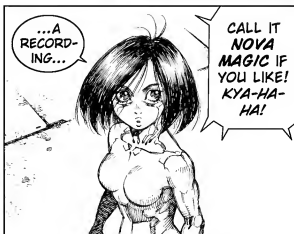


YOU MUST BE WONDERING HOW IT IS THAT I'M STILL ALIVE, SINCE YOU KILLED ME IN THE GRANITE INN, HMM?

WELL, THAT'S FOR ME TO KNOW AND YOU TO FIND OUT, MY DEAR!



YOUR BRAIN IS BACK, GOOD AS NEW! IT WAS BLOWN TO BITS, YOU KNOW.



...A RECORDING...

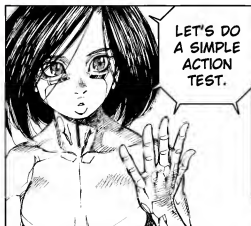
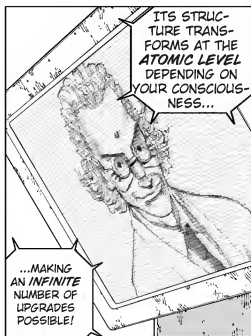
CALL IT **NOVA MAGIC** IF YOU LIKE! KYA-HA-HA!

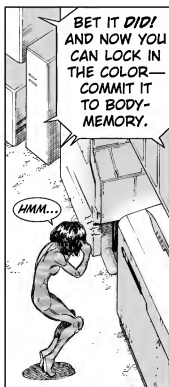


...UNLESS YOUR PSYCHE HAS BLOCKED SOME PARTS OUT.



NOTHING MY NANO-TECHNOLOGY COULDN'T REPAIR. EVEN YOUR MEMORY SHOULD BE INTACT...

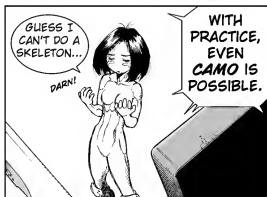




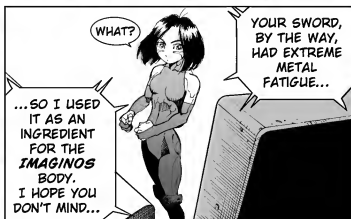
BET IT *DID!*
AND NOW YOU
CAN LOCK IN
THE COLOR—
COMMIT IT
TO BODY-
MEMORY.



THE
PRELIMINARY
CAPACITIES ARE
MUCH THE
SAME AS THE
BERSERKER
BODY IN
COMBAT
MODE.



WITH
PRACTICE,
EVEN
CAMO IS
POSSIBLE.



...SO I USED
IT AS AN
INGREDIENT
FOR THE
IMAGINOS
BODY.
I HOPE YOU
DON'T MIND...

YOUR SWORD,
BY THE WAY,
HAD EXTREME
METAL
FATIGUE...



WHAT
GAVE
YOU THE
RIGHT...?!



HE EX-
PECTS ME
TO BELIEVE
THAT...?



I ASSURE
YOU, I
HAVEN'T
TINKERED
WITH YOUR
FREE WILL.

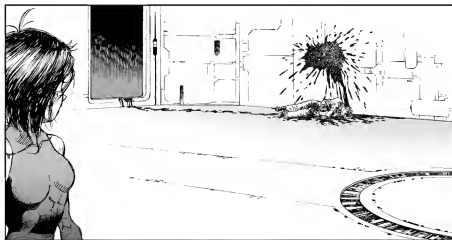
EVERY
DECISION
IS STILL
UP TO
YOU...



HEH, HEH...
THINGS ARE
ABOUT TO
GET INTER-
ESTING NOW
THAT YOU'RE
AWAKE!

GOOD
DAY,
ALITA!

WHAT
REALLY
HAP-
PENED
HERE?



Ka WHAM



Whud









Beep,
hoop!

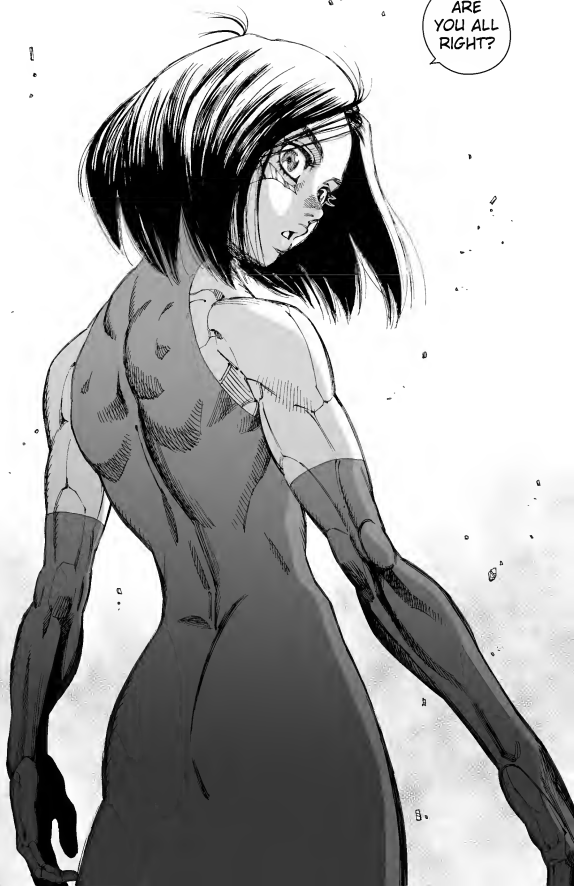
TONG

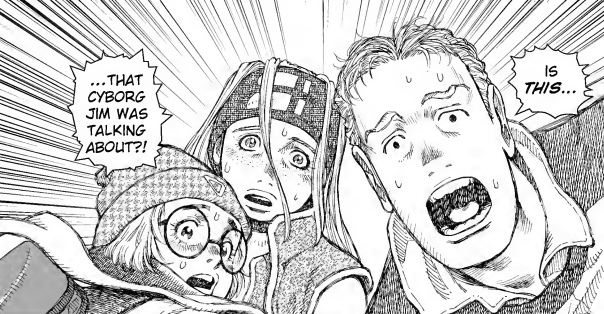
M.I.B.

HOTEL



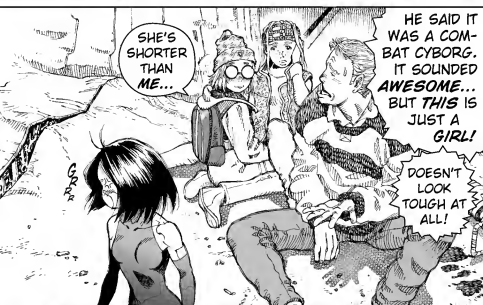
ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT?





...THAT
CYBORG
JIM WAS
TALKING
ABOUT?!

IS
THIS...



SHE'S
SHORTER
THAN
ME...

HE SAID IT
WAS A COM-
BAT CYBORG.
IT SOUNDED
AWESOME...
BUT **THIS** IS
JUST A
GIRL!

DOESN'T
LOOK
TOUGH AT
ALL!

SO YOUNG.
NOT EVEN
TWENTY...



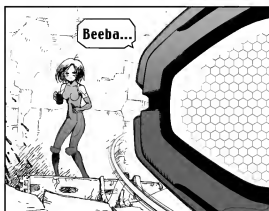
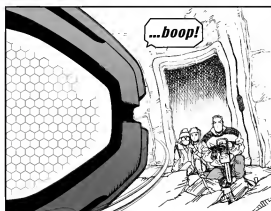
■ CITIZEN CODE:
■ NOT FOUND

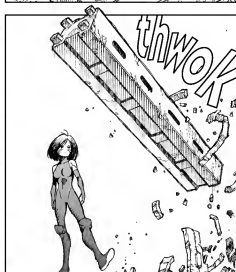
ENEMY



Eep,
oop!

k!ng







I'M
YOUR
OPPONENT.



WHAT
SUPER
STRENGTH!

DID YOU
SEE?!



Wsh



Hiss!

kikaka

tik





SKRRK

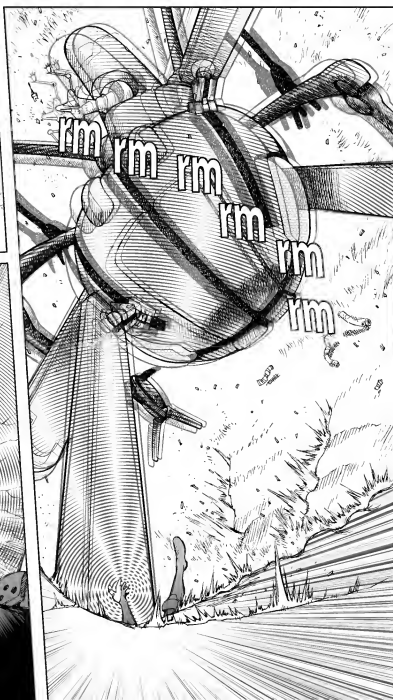
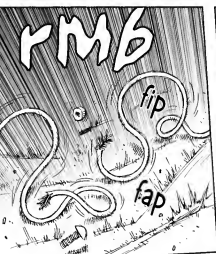
UINGH!

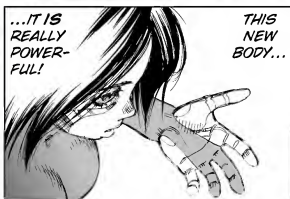
STRANGE.
I'M
SURE I
DODGED
IT...

HERTZ
HAEN!

V
W
U
M
M







...IT IS
REALLY
POWER-
FUL!

THIS
NEW
BODY...

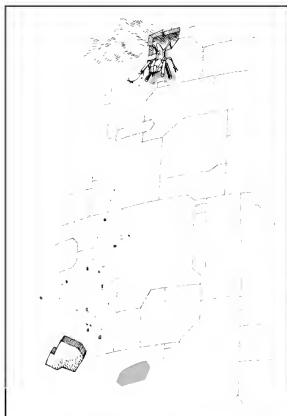


BOTH MY
ARMS WERE
TOUCHING THE
WALL, WHICH
DISPERSED
THE VIBRA-
TION, BUT IT
WAS STILL SO
POWERFUL...

AND YET...









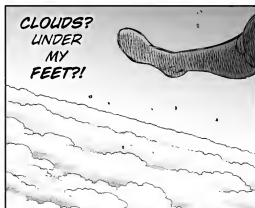
DON'T
LET
GO!

MY
EARS
HURT!



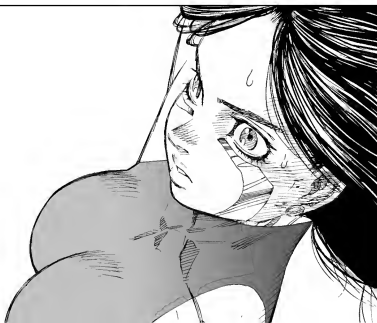
IT
CAN'T
BE.

NO...



CLOUDS?
UNDER
MY
FEET?!

GELDA, MY
PANZER
KUNST
MASTER...
WHAT WAS IT
SHE TOLD
ME?



HEY!

DO YOU
EVER GET
SCARED,
GELDA?



WELL,
THAT
EVOKES
FEAR IN
ANY
WARRIOR.

WHEN A
SITUATION
IS MORE
THAN I
CAN
GRASP...



REAL
DANGER
ISN'T FAC-
ING THE
FIERCEST
ENEMY.

KEEP
THIS IN
MIND,
YOU
TWO...



YES,
I
DO.



SO IF
WE GET
SCARED,
WHAT
SHOULD
WE DO?



NO...THE
GRAVEST
DANGER IS
BEING OVER-
COME BY
YOUR **OWN**
FEAR.

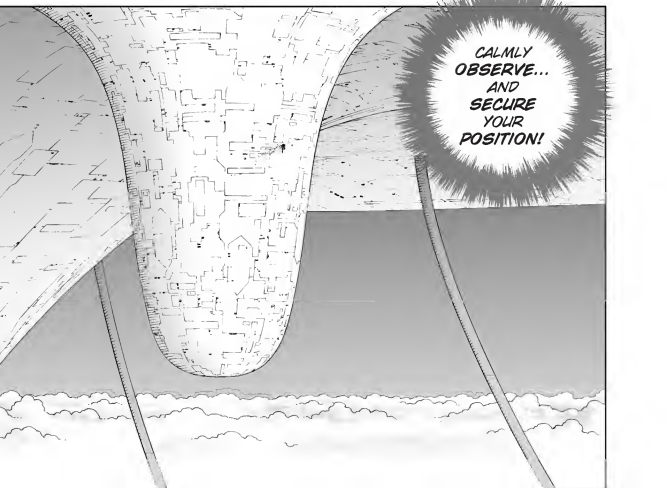




A character is shown hanging from a thin wire, suspended in the air. The background is a detailed cityscape with various buildings and structures. The character is in a dynamic pose, with one arm reaching up to grip the wire. The overall scene suggests a high-stakes action sequence.

**EVEN IF
YOU FACE
SOMETHING
YOU CAN'T
COMPREHEND...
ACCEPT IT!**

shaoooooooo

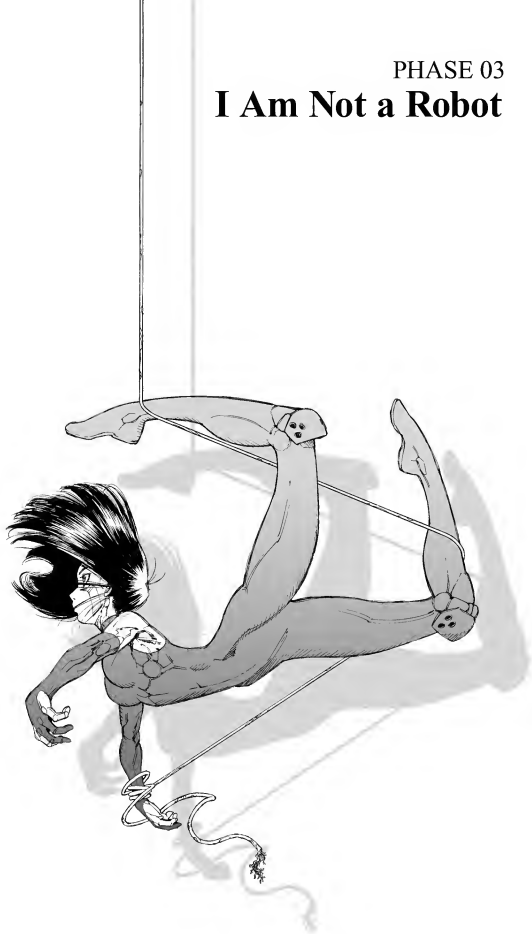


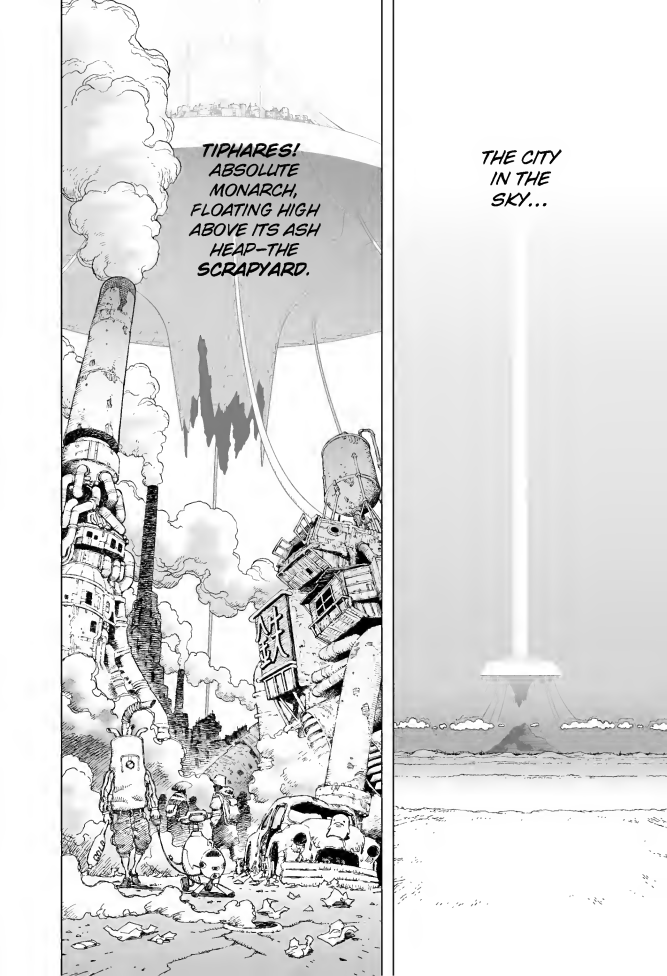
The character is hanging from a wire, similar to the first panel. The background shows a cityscape with a large, curved structure, possibly a bridge or a large building, dominating the left side of the frame. The character is in a similar pose, hanging from the wire.

**CALMLY
OBSERVE...
AND
SECURE
YOUR
POSITION!**



PHASE 03
I Am Not a Robot



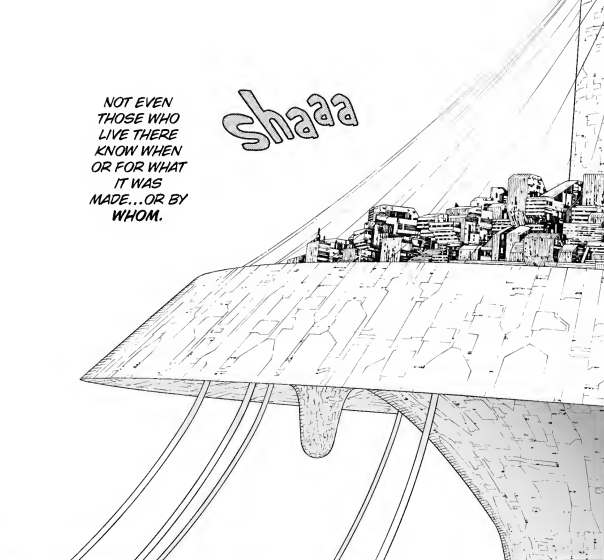


**TIPHARES!
ABSOLUTE
MONARCH,
FLOATING HIGH
ABOVE ITS ASH
HEAP-THE
SCRAPYARD.**

**THE CITY
IN THE
SKY...**

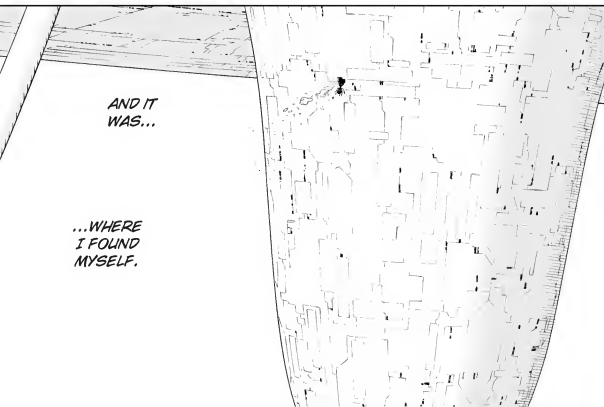
NOT EVEN
THOSE WHO
LIVE THERE
KNOW WHEN
OR FOR WHAT
IT WAS
MADE...OR BY
WHOM.

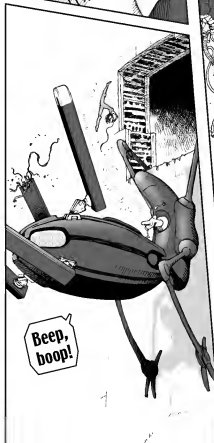
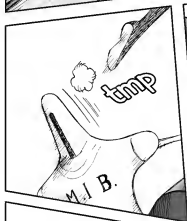
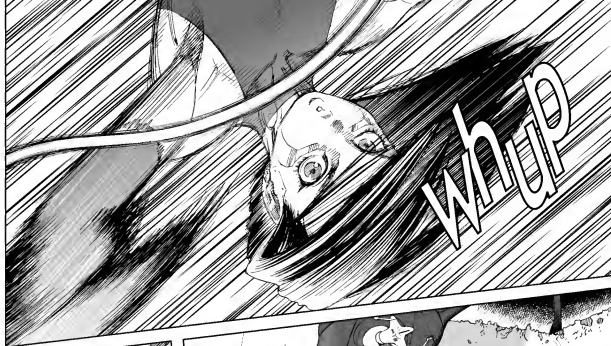
Shaaa

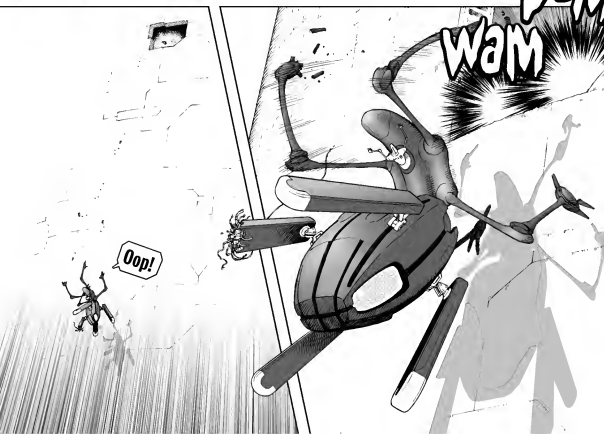


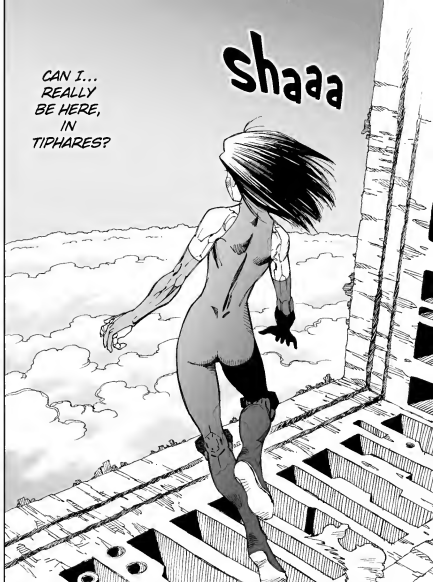
AND IT
WAS...

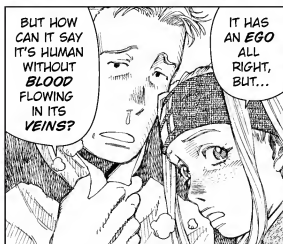
...WHERE
I FOUND
MYSELF.











HOW
SMUG...

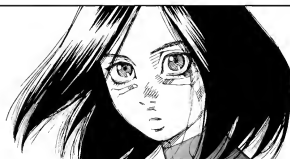
NOT THE
SLIGHTEST
DOUBT
ABOUT
HERSELF.

"PROVE"
I'M
HUMAN,
SHE
SAYS.



THAT'S
PROOF
ENOUGH.

I
BELIEVE
THAT I'M
HUMAN.

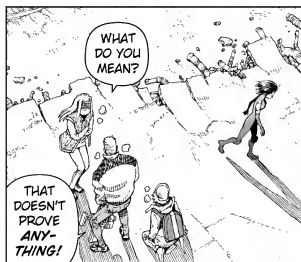


HEY!
WHERE DO
YOU THINK
YOU'RE
GOING?!

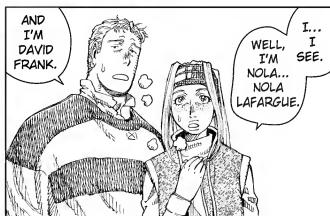
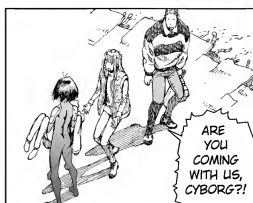
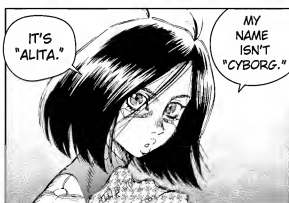
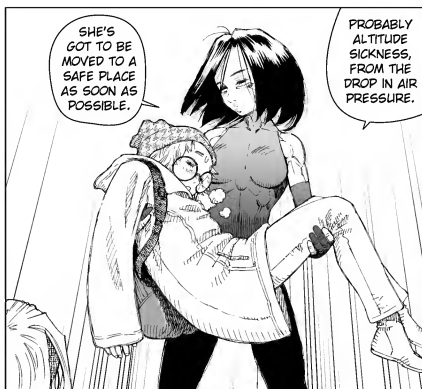


WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?

THAT
DOESN'T
PROVE
ANY-
THING!





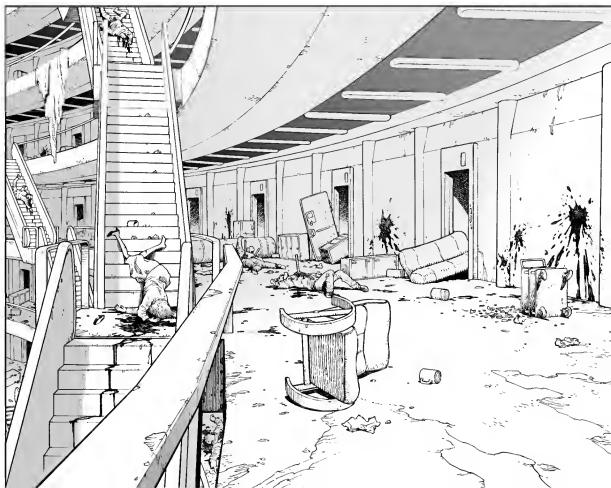
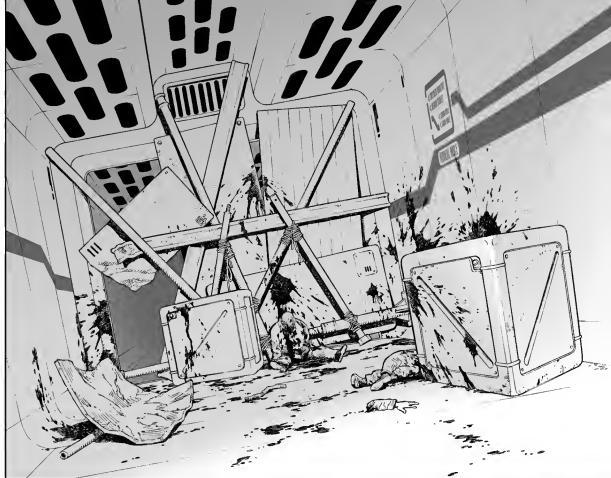




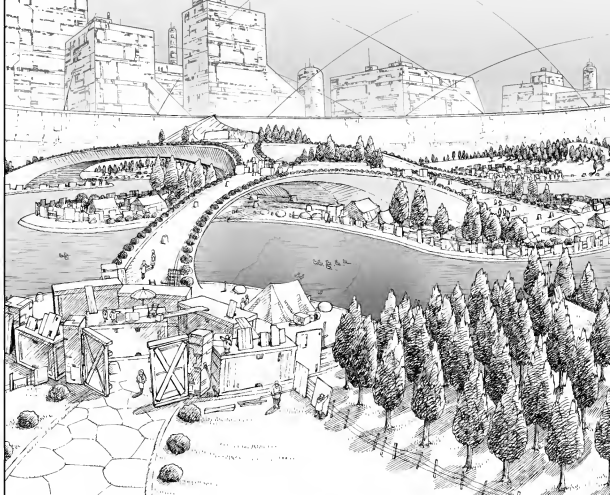
ARE
YOU
TWO...
SISTERS?

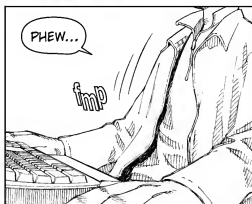
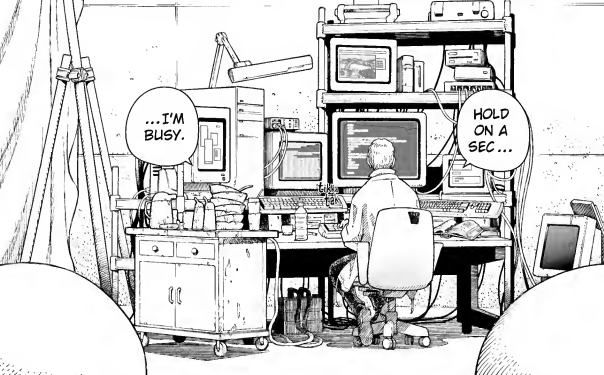
NAH...
WE JUST
MET THREE
DAYS
AGO...

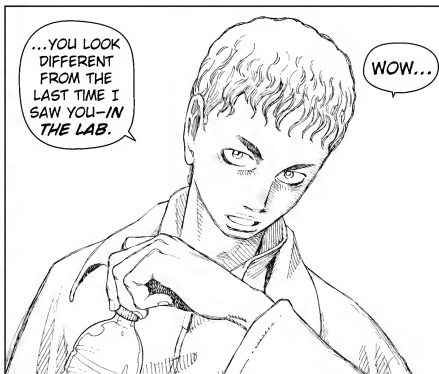
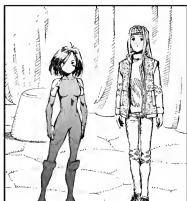
I...
I SEE.

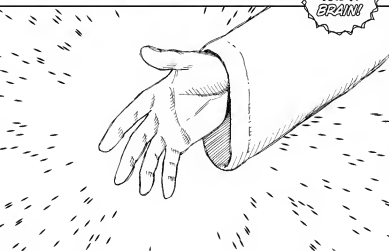














MY
NAME'S
JIM
ROSCOE.



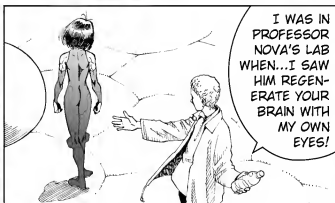
I NEVER
SAID I'D
JOIN
YOU.



SO HE
KNOWS
NOVA!



I WAS IN
PROFESSOR
NOVA'S LAB
WHEN...I SAW
HIM REGEN-
ERATE YOUR
BRAIN WITH
MY OWN
EYES!

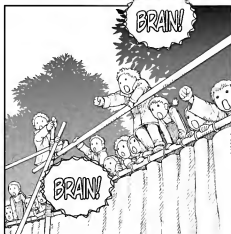


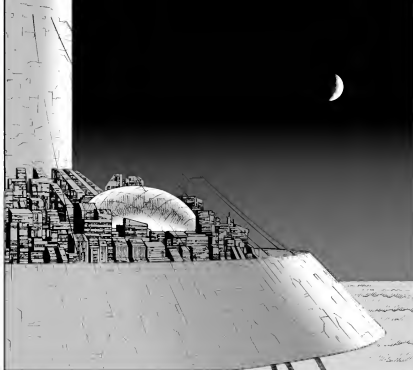
...AND IT'S
NOT LIKE
WHAT'S IN-
SIDE ADULT
SKULLS
HERE.

YOU
ARE
ONE OF
US.

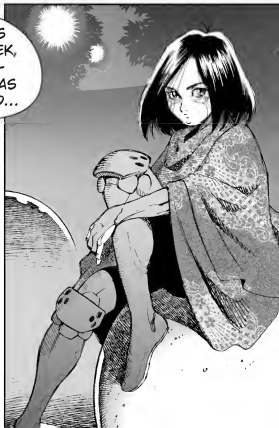
I SAW
WHAT'S
IN YOUR
SKULL,
ALITA...

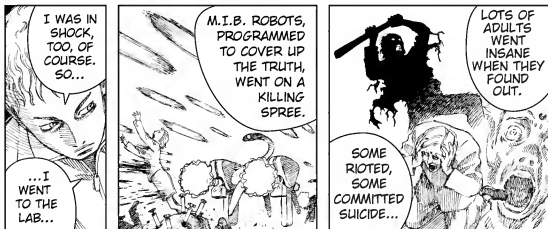
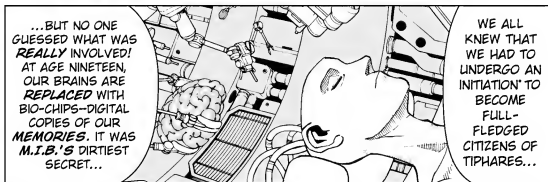
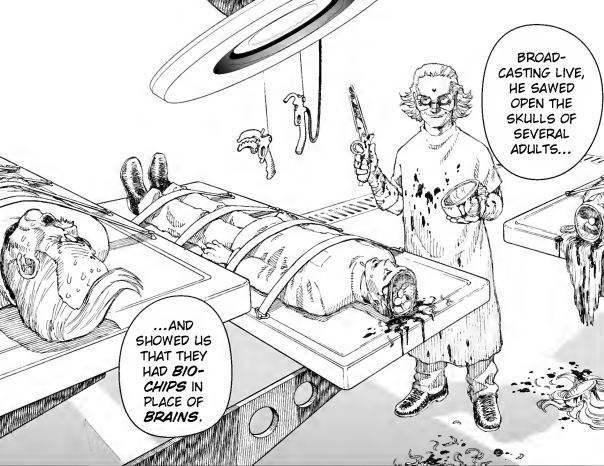




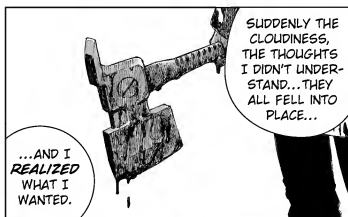


IN THIS
ONE WEEK,
EVERY-
THING HAS
CHANGED...





**Initiation: A rite of passage, a ceremony someone must undergo to become a full-fledged member of a collective society. In Japan, the "seijinshiki" fulfills this role.*





THE
SECOND
ONE IS THE
BACKUP
FROM HIS
STOMACH...

THE
PROFESSOR'S
BIO-CHIPS.
THEY'RE MINE
NOW.

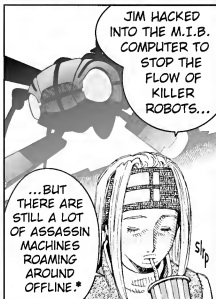


WE HAVE
235 KIDS
UNDER 19
IN THIS
STRONG-
HOLD...

NO.
SHAME
ONE.

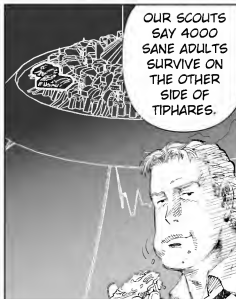


EIGHTY
PERCENT
OF ALL
TIPHARES
LOST IN
ONE
WEEK...



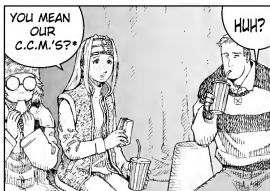
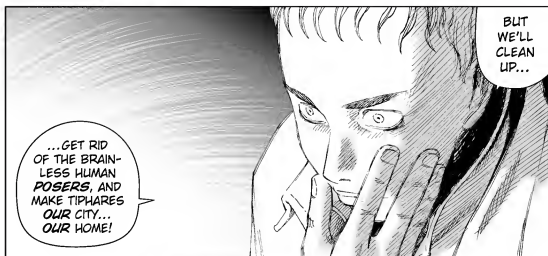
JIM HACKED
INTO THE M.I.B.
COMPUTER TO
STOP THE
FLOW OF
KILLER
ROBOTS...

...BUT
THERE ARE
STILL A LOT
OF ASSASSIN
MACHINES
ROAMING
AROUND
OFFLINE.*



OUR SCOUTS
SAY 4000
SANE ADULTS
SURVIVE ON
THE OTHER
SIDE OF
TIPHARES.

*Offline Cut off from central systems but functioning independently.



*C.C.M.: Child Care Manager.

*C.C.U.: Child Care Unit.

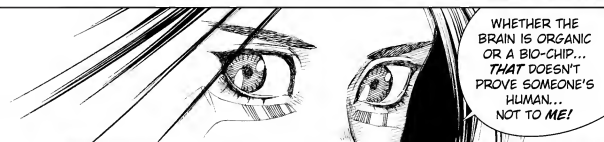


SHE'S TIPHAR-
EAN... HER
BRAIN WAS
SWAPPED OUT
FOR A BIO-
CHIP.

BUT
SHE BROKE
TIPHAREAN
RULES TO
SAVE MY LIFE.



THERE'S
SOMEONE
I HAVE
TO LOOK
FOR....



WHETHER THE
BRAIN IS ORGANIC
OR A BIO-CHIP...
THAT DOESN'T
PROVE SOMEONE'S
HUMAN...
NOT TO ME!



...YOUR
OPINION.
WHAT
SHOULD
WE
BELIEVE?

YES.
I'D
LIKE
TO
HEAR...



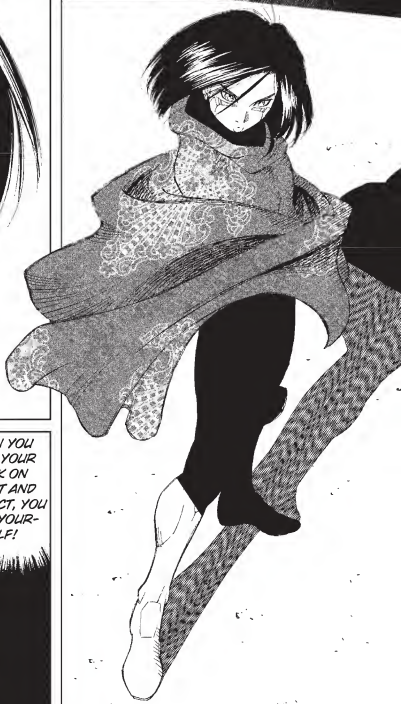
THEN WHAT
DOES IT
MEAN...
TO BE
HUMAN?



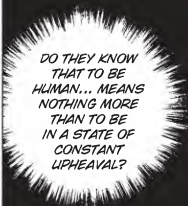


DO THESE
CHILDREN
UNDERSTAND...?

HOW EASILY ONE
CAN BECOME A
PUPPET OR A BEAST,
EVEN WITH A
FLESH-AND-BLOOD
BRAIN?

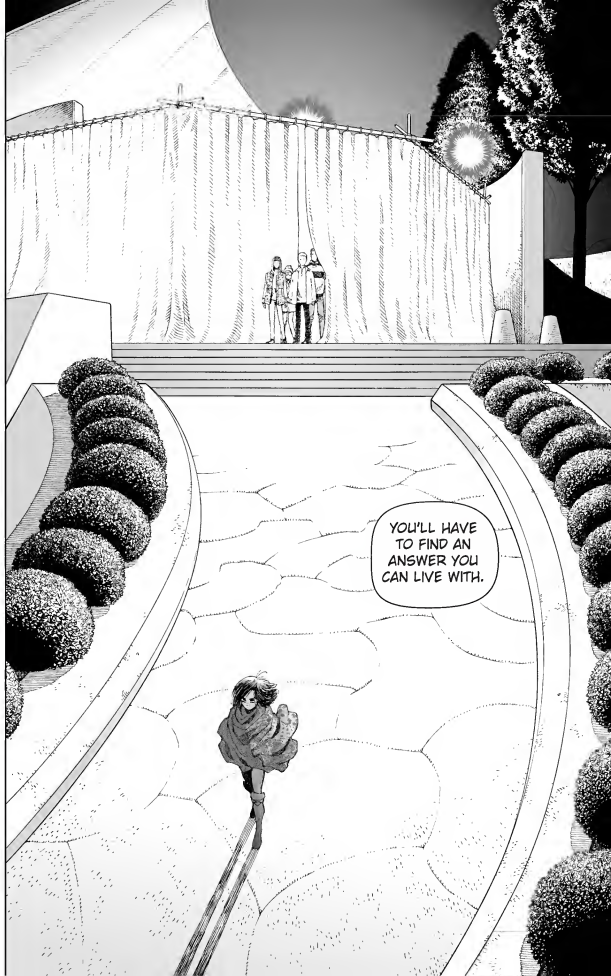


WHEN YOU
TURN YOUR
BACK ON
DOUBT AND
CONFLICT, YOU
LOSE YOUR-
SELF!



DO THEY KNOW
THAT TO BE
HUMAN... MEANS
NOTHING MORE
THAN TO BE
IN A STATE OF
CONSTANT
UPHEAVAL?





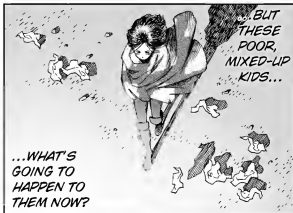
YOU'LL HAVE
TO FIND AN
ANSWER YOU
CAN LIVE WITH.



...
I GUESS IT'S
GOT NOTHING
TO DO WITH
ME...



...WHAT'S
GOING TO
HAPPEN TO
THEM NOW?



...BUT
THESE
POOR,
MIXED-UP
KIDS...

TIPHARES
NEVER MADE
SENSE TO
BEGIN WITH...



NO USE
TRYING
TO STOP
ME.

THAT'S
NOT
WHY...



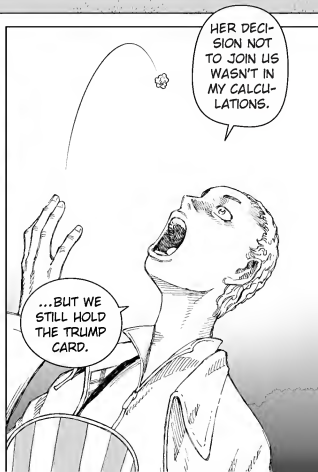
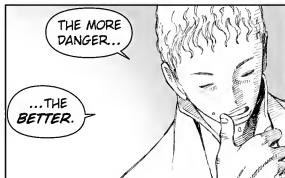
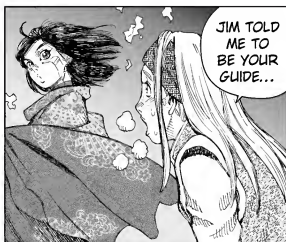
WFF

WFF



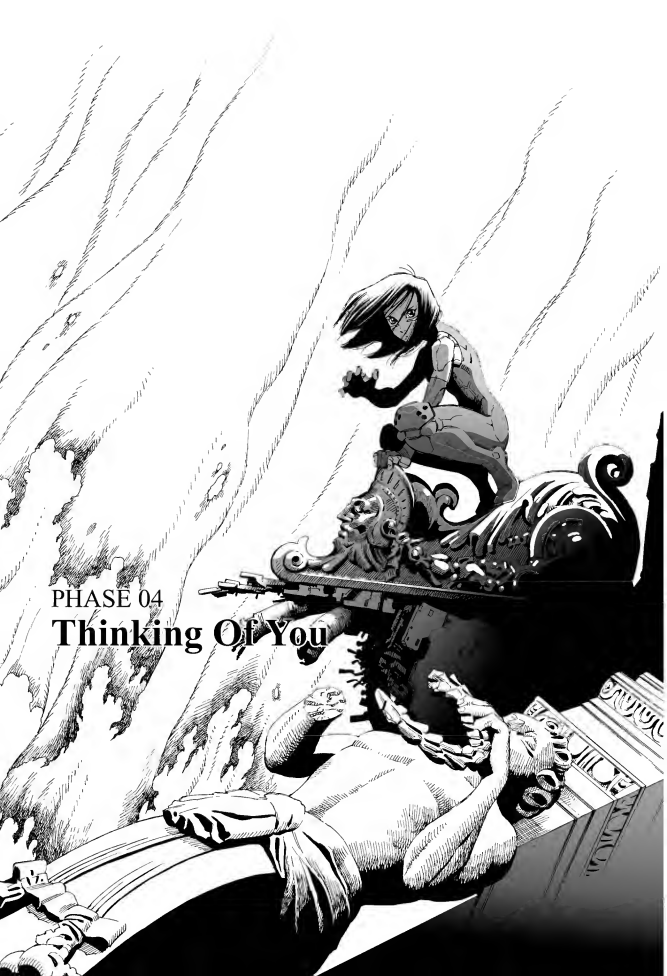
WAIT
UP!











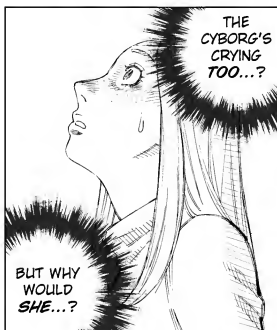
PHASE 04

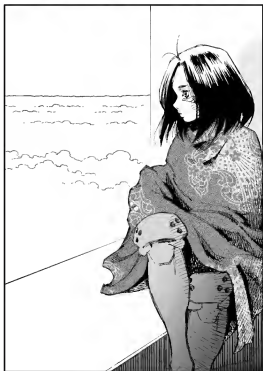
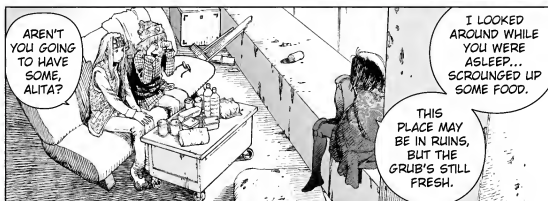
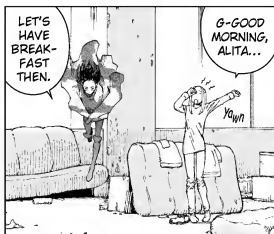
Thinking Of You

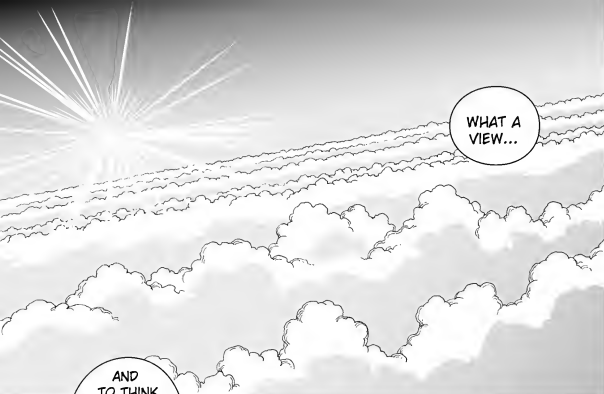




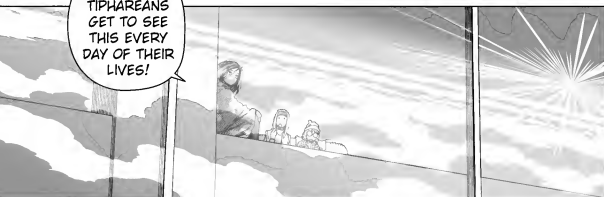








WHAT A
VIEW...



AND
TO THINK
TIPHAREANS
GET TO SEE
THIS EVERY
DAY OF THEIR
LIVES!



LONG
AGO...



NOW I
GET IT!

OH!

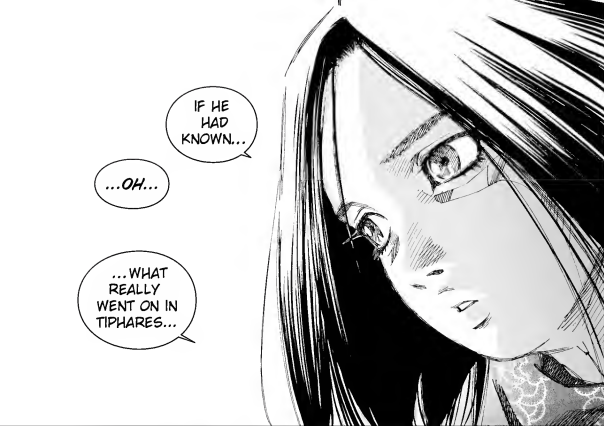


ALITA
HAS A
SENTI-
MENTAL
SIDE TO
HER...

THOSE
TEARS...
SHE WAS
MOVED BY
THE BEAUTY
OF THE
VIEW!

THERE
WAS
SOMEONE I
WANTED TO
SHOW THIS
VIEW TO...

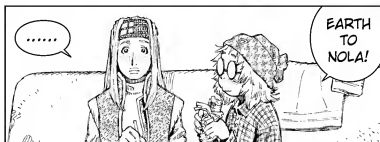




IF HE
HAD
KNOWN...

...OH...

...WHAT
REALLY
WENT ON IN
TIPHARES...



EARTH
TO
NOLA!

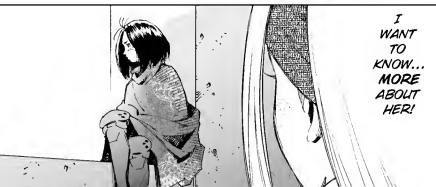
...AND BEEN
THROUGH
UNIMAGINABLE
JOY AND
SORROW!



SHE'S
PROBABLY
SEEN
THINGS
WE'VE
NEVER
HEARD OF
...



I
WANT
TO
KNOW...
MORE
ABOUT
HER!



Medical Inspection
Bureau Core Block



ALL
RIGHT!

THAT
TAKES
CARE OF
THE
SECURITY
LOCK!



WAIT!

LET'S
GO!

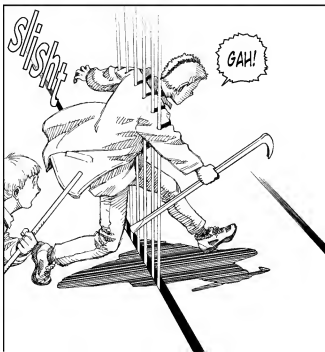
finish



YOU
GOTTA
WORK
WITH
US,
JIM!

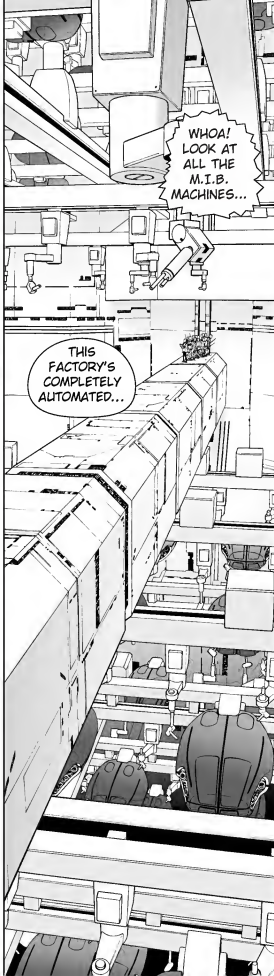
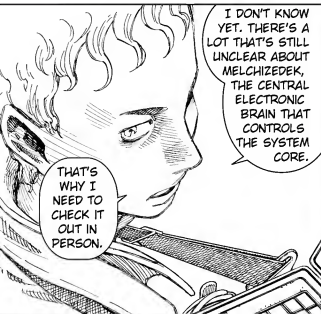
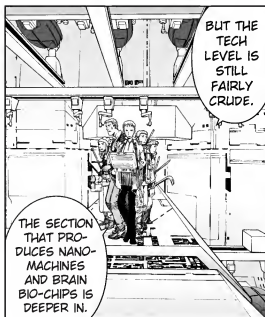
SORRY--STILL
A FEW SELF-
CONTAINED
BOOBY TRAPS.
WATCH
YOUR
STEP!

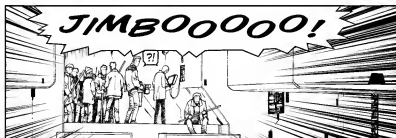
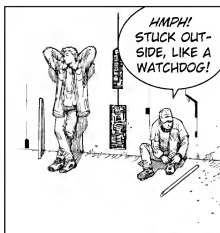
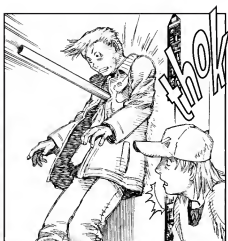
ha
ha
ha



GAH!

Slish!







ISN'T IT
OBVIOUS?
WE'RE BREAKING
INTO THE
M.I.B. CORE—
SAME AS YOU...

SO.
YOU'RE
ALIVE.

GROWN-
UPS!

DAMN!
THEY'VE
GOT
HARRY!

JIM,
JIM,
JIMMY
BOY!

OHHHHH!

WE'RE
HERE TO
RESTORE LAW
AND ORDER TO
TIPHARES...

...TO GET
M.I.B.
BACK UP
AND
RUNNING!

DON'T LUMP
US IN WITH
SUBVERSIVE
ELEMENTS
LIKE YOU AND
YOUR
BUDDIES!

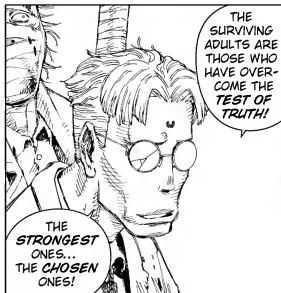


SURE,
WE'LL HAVE
TO MODIFY
THE
PROGRAM...

TELL THEM
ABOUT THE
SITUATION
WE'RE IN.

...AND
YOU'LL BE
KILLED TOO,
SINCE YOU
KNOW
ABOUT THE
BRAIN
CHIPS!

THAT'S
NUTS!
YOU DO
THAT...



THE
SURVIVING
ADULTS ARE
THOSE WHO
HAVE OVER-
COME THE
**TEST OF
TRUTH!**

THE
STRONGEST
ONES...
THE **CHOSEN**
ONES!



IT'S TRUE
THERE WERE
MANY SACRI-
FICES MADE IN
EXPOSING THE
SECRET OF
TIPHARES...

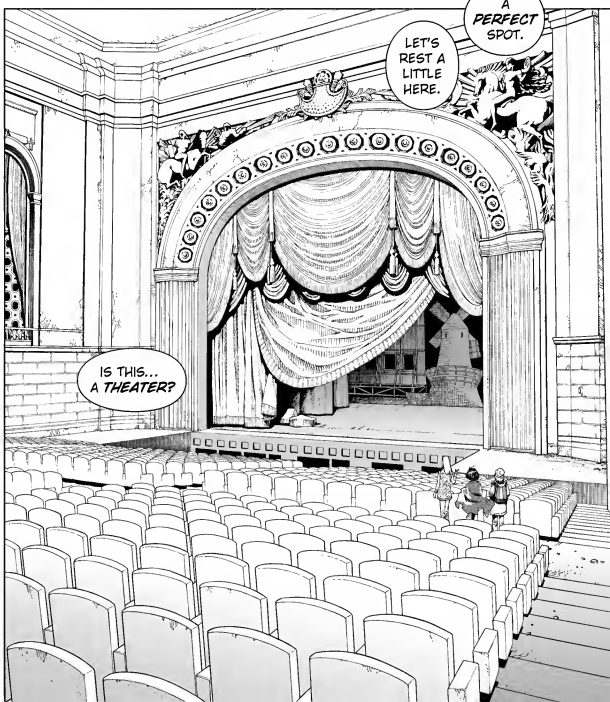
...BUT IT
WAS AN
**UNAVOID-
ABLE**
SELECTION
PROCESS!

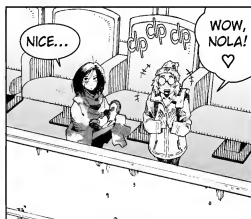
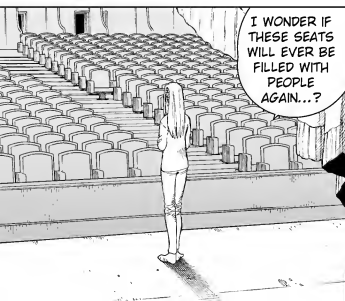
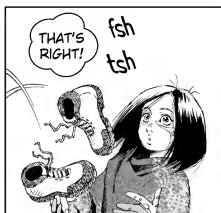
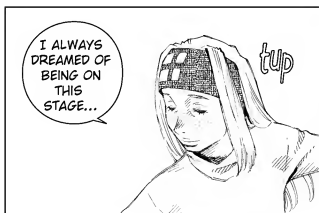


WE'LL DO
MORE THAN
RESTORE
TIPHARES-
WE'LL MAKE IT
STRONGER,
MORE
BEAUTIFUL!

THE FACT
THAT OUR
BRAINS ARE
BIO-CHIPS
IS **PROOF**
THAT WE
BELONG TO
A HIGHER
ORDER THAN
RUN-OF-THE-
MILL
HUMANS!















...MY WAY
OF SAYING
HELLO.

THAT
WAS
JUST...



IS SHE
YOUR
SISTER?

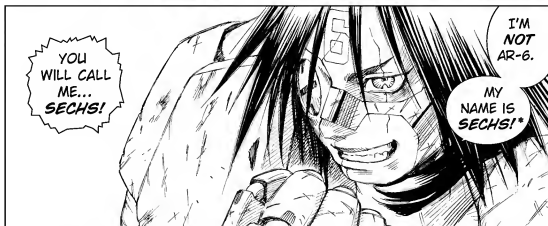
WH-
WHO?!

...NOT
EXACTLY.



SO SOME
OF THEM
ARE STILL
ALIVE!

ONE OF
THE
TUNED
AR
SERIES
2*...



YOU
WILL
CALL
ME...
SECHS!

I'M
NOT
AR-6.

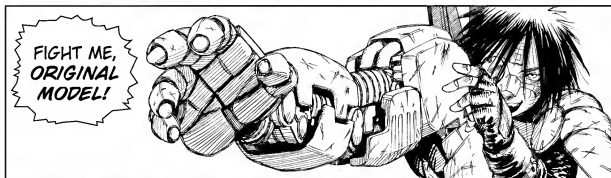
MY
NAME IS
SECHS!*

**Tuned AR Series 2*: Twelve androids created by G.I.B. based on Alita's battle data when she was a TUNED. See *Battle Angel Alita* #44.

**Sechs*: German for "six."

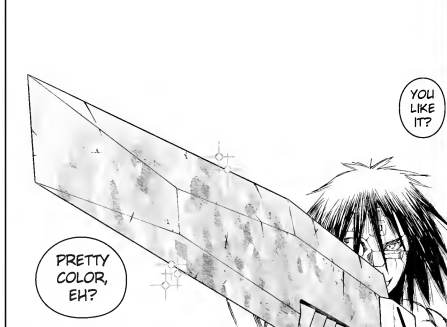


HAVE I
REALLY
BEEN
ASLEEP
THAT
LONG?



**TITAN
BLADE!**





YOU
LIKE
IT?

PRETTY
COLOR,
EH?



I'D
HOPED
TO...

...CROSS
SWORDS
WITH YOUR
LEGENDARY
DAMASCUS
BLADE...

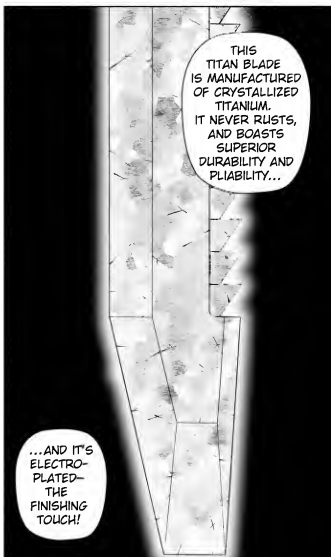


WHAT'S
WRONG?
DID YOU
LOSE
YOUR
FAVORITE
TOY?



DAMN...

"TITAN
BLADE,"
HUH?



THIS
TITAN BLADE
IS MANUFACTURED
OF CRYSTALLIZED
TITANIUM.
IT NEVER RUSTS,
AND BOASTS
SUPERIOR
DURABILITY AND
PLIABILITY...

...AND IT'S
ELECTRO-
PLATED—
THE
FINISHING
TOUCH!

...I
WANT
ONE!

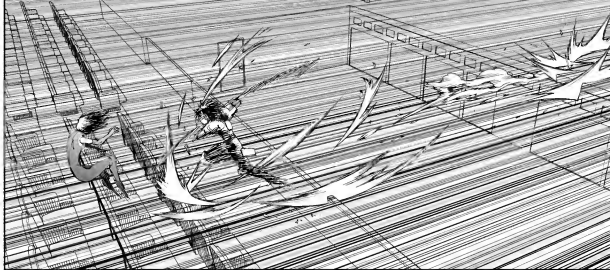
shoom

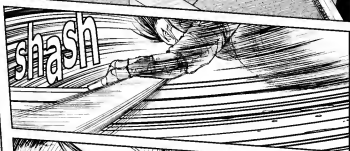
AND AFTER
I DEFEAT
YOU, I'LL
BE THE
REAL ONE
!!

IT LOOKS
LIKE I
GOT YOUR
ATTENTION.

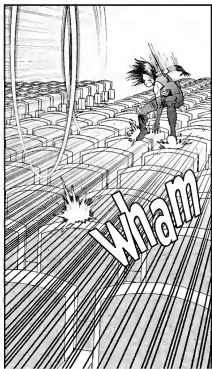
HEH,
HEH...!

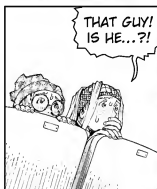
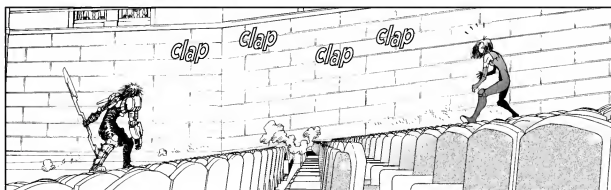
Whoosh













*TUT!
SUCH
VICIOUS
SLANDER!*

*I'M A MERE
SPECTATOR,
MY DEAR.*



THEY
INSISTED—
JUST
INSISTED—
ON MEETING
YOU.

I BROUGHT
THESE
CHILDREN
UP FROM THE
SURFACE TO
BE MY BODY-
GUARDS...

PHASE 05 ~~No Way!~~

Professor Desty Nova

AND
I'M
ELF.*

I'M
ZWÖLF.*

Kimpi

Kimpo

PLEASURE TO
MEET YOU! ♥

YOU GET
TO
WATCH
THEN...

Sechs

M-MASTER,
OH,
MASTER...

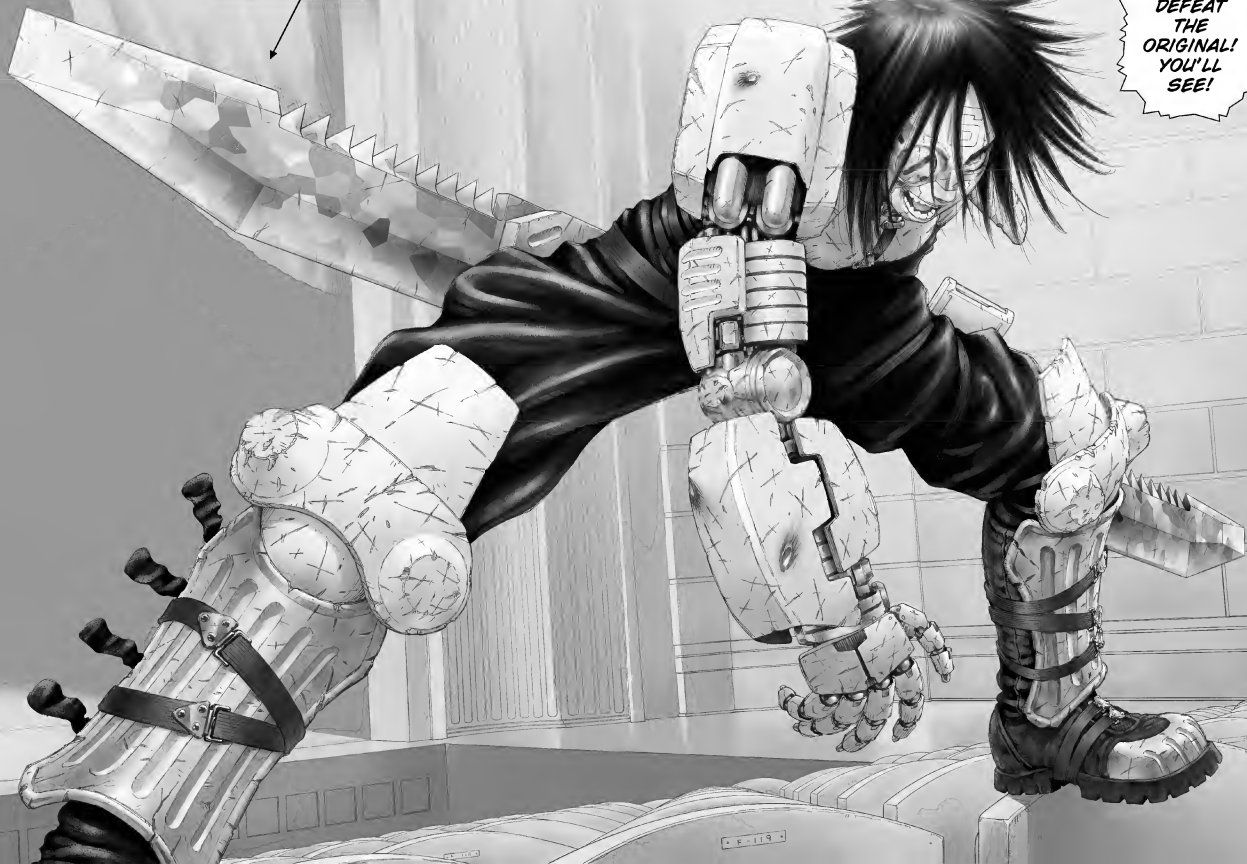
Deckman 100

*Zwölf: Twelve in German.

*Elf: Eleven in German.

Titan Blade

I WILL
DEFEAT
THE
ORIGINAL!
YOU'LL
SEE!





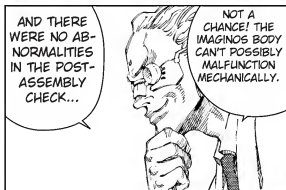


IT FEELS LIKE
I'M GOING TO
POP OUT OF
MY SKIN... I
CAN'T REACH
TOP SPEED!



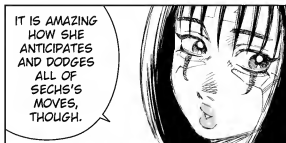
SWUP

UHH!



AND THERE
WERE NO AB-
NORMALITIES
IN THE POST-
ASSEMBLY
CHECK...

NOT A
CHANCE! THE
IMAGINOS BODY
CAN'T POSSIBLY
MALFUNCTION
MECHANICALLY.



IT IS AMAZING
HOW SHE
ANTICIPATES
AND DODGES
ALL OF
SECHS'S
MOVES,
THOUGH.



BUT
SECHS
HASN'T
GOTTEN
SERIOUS-
YET.



THE
ORIGINAL'S
MOVES ARE
RATHER
BORING. IS IT
DUE TO THE
PERIOD OF
INACTIVITY?

MAYBE THE
BODY ISN'T
FUNCTIONING
WELL?



...WOULD
BE ABLE TO
SEE RIGHT
THROUGH
MOVES FROM
THE SAME
STYLE.

I SHOULD'VE
KNOWN THE
HEIR TO THE
ORIGINAL
PANZER
KUNST...

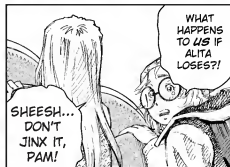
smash

brsh



I DON'T
WANT YOU TO
DIE, ALITA!
THERE'S STILL
TOO MUCH I
WANT YOU TO
TEACH ME!

I DON'T KNOW
WHAT'S
GOING ON,
BUT...



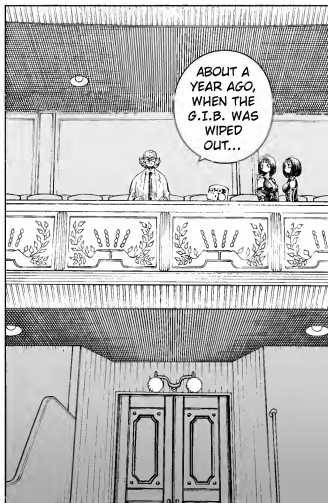
WHAT
HAPPENS
TO US IF
ALITA
LOSES?!

SHEESH...
DON'T
JINX IT,
PAM!



...THE
TUNED
AR
SERIES
TWO!

...TEN
COPIES OF
YOU WERE
LEFT ON
THE SUR-
FACE...



ABOUT A
YEAR AGO,
WHEN THE
G.I.B. WAS
WIPED
OUT...

THE AR-6,
SECHS,
FOUND HER
RAISON
D'ÊTRE IN
BATTLE, AND
CHALLENGED
THE
OTHERS...

...DEFEATING
THEM *ALL*,
EXCEPT FOR
AR-11 AND
AR-12 HERE.

SECHS
KEEPS FIGHTING
WITHOUT A REA-
SON, LIVING LIFE
IN ITS *PRIMITIVE*
FORM!

JUST AS YOU
ONCE DID, AM
I RIGHT?



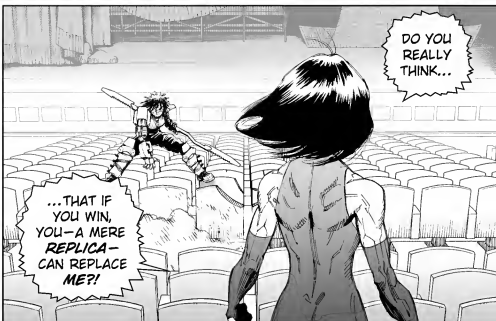


SECHS
IS *NOT*
LIKE
ME!

NO MORE
POINTLESS
BLATHERING,
PROFESSOR!



DO YOU
REALLY
THINK...



...THAT IF
YOU WIN,
YOU—A MERE
REPLICA—
CAN REPLACE
ME?!

WHY AM I HERE IN
THIS WORLD?
BECAUSE G.I.B.
CREATED ME? NO!
THAT'S NOT THE
ANSWER!



DON'T
GET THE
WRONG
IDEA.

TO BECOME
REAL ISN'T
TO *REPLACE*
YOU, ALITA!





—THEN I'VE
EARNED THE
RIGHT TO
EXIST...*AS
MYSELF!*

IF I CAN
TAKE DOWN
THE ALL-
POWERFUL
ORIGINAL—



AS A
REAL...
WARRIOR!

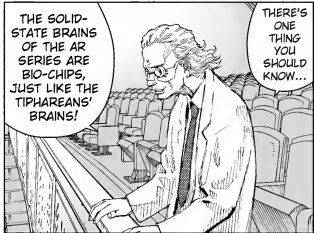


WHAT?!



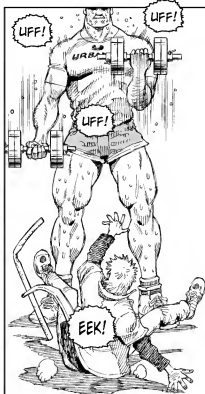
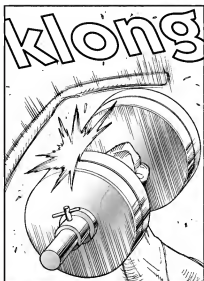
I'M FAIRLY
SURE NOT
EVEN BUREAU
CHIEF BIGOTT
KNEW THAT,
THOUGH!

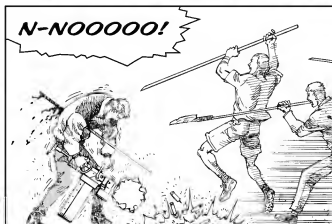
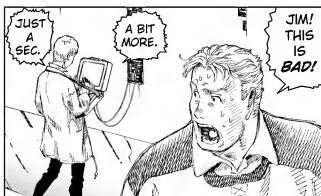
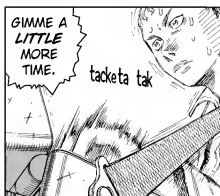
KYA,
HA!



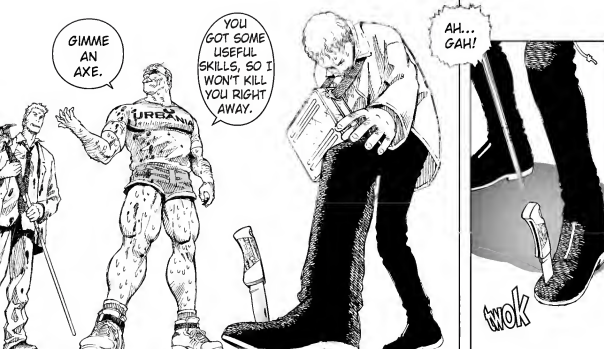
THE SOLID-
STATE BRAINS
OF THE AR
SERIES ARE
BIO-CHIPS,
JUST LIKE THE
TIPHAREANS'
BRAINS!

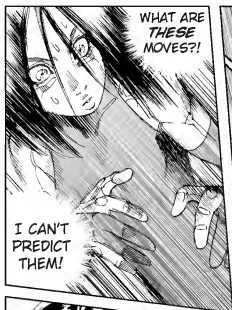
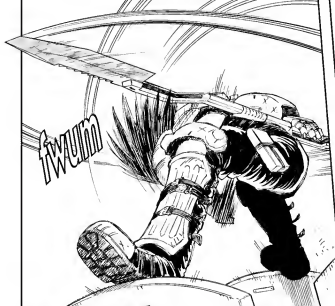
THERE'S
ONE
THING
YOU
SHOULD
KNOW...



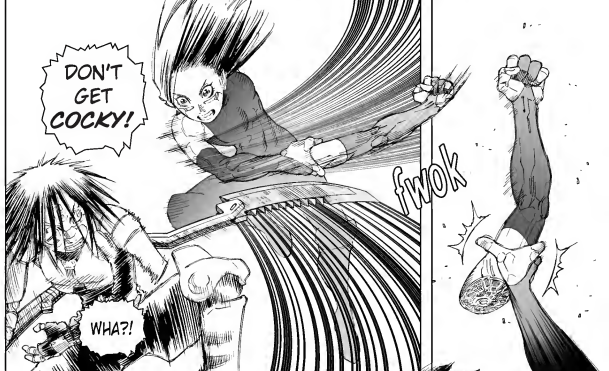


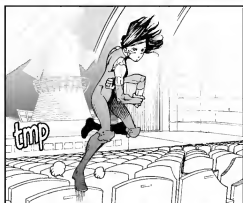


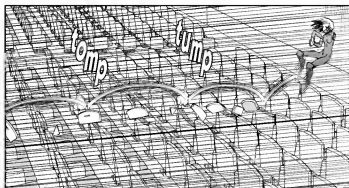


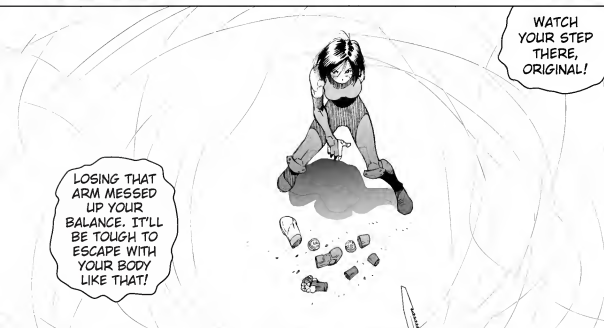
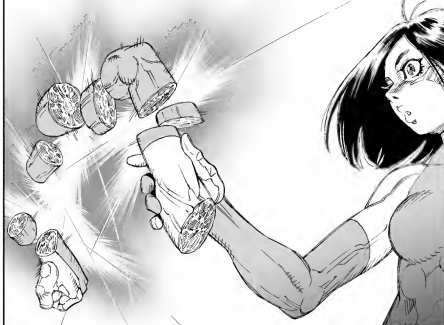




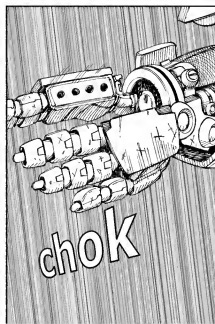
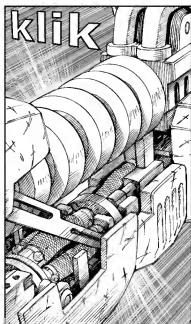








**Mono-molecular wire: TUNED standard issue equipment. Two microns thick, with a tensile strength of 2.4 tons, this wire is one long cylindrical molecule, held together by the powerful covalent bonds between atoms.*





THIS IS A
22-CALIBER
SUPER-
CONDUCT-
ING PHASE
TRANSITION
GUN.



AN ULTRA-
SUPERSONIC
BULLET IS
DAMN HARD
TO DODGE,
BABY.

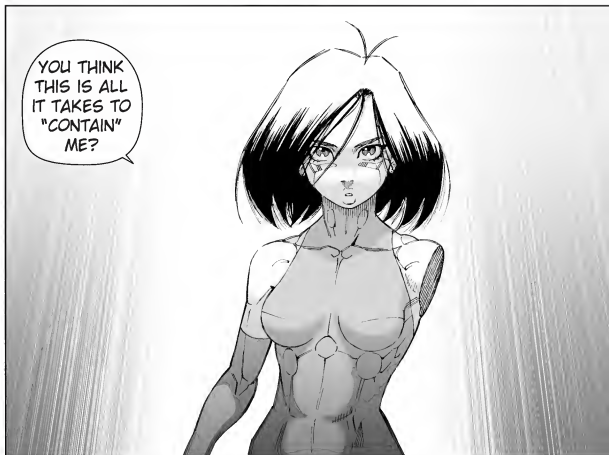
SMALL
CALIBER,
BUT YOU
KNOW HOW
POWERFUL
IT IS.

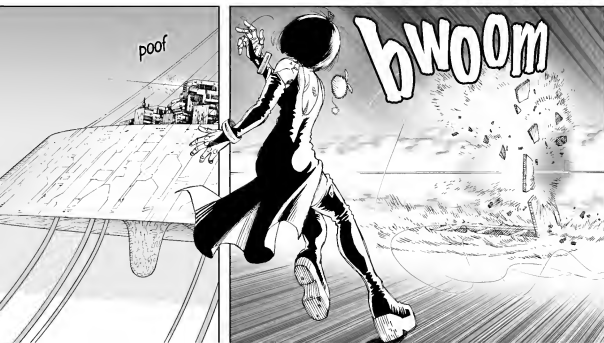
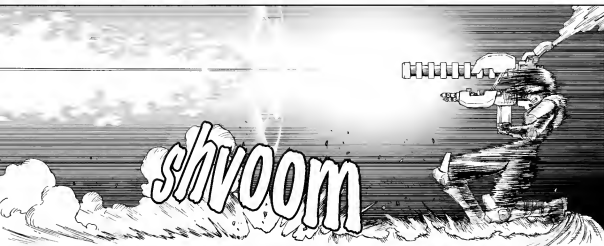
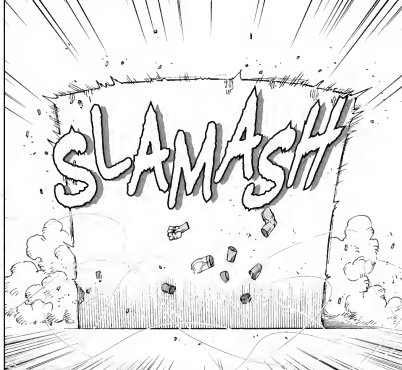


M-
MASTER
...

THAT
PRECIOUS
IMAGINOS
BODY-IT'S
ABOUT TO
TURN INTO
SCRAP!

OH MY,
MY, MY!



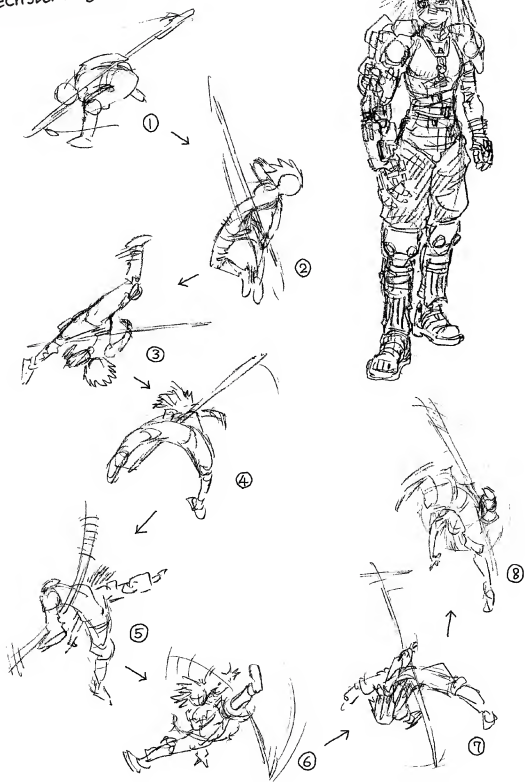




YOU'LL COME
RIGHT BACK TO
LIFE ANYWAY,
SO YOU DON'T
MIND IF I KILL
YOU NOW,
DO YOU?

PROFES-
SOR...

Sechster Angriff



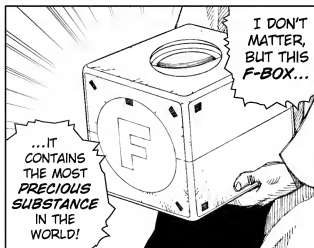


PHASE 06

Turn the TV Off...

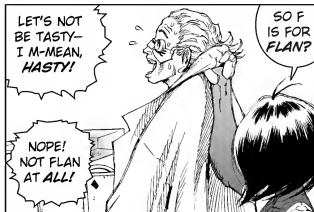


YOU'VE
GOT A GOOD
BODYGUARD,
NOVA.



I DON'T
MATTER,
BUT THIS
F-BOX...

...IT
CONTAINS
THE MOST
PRECIOUS
SUBSTANCE
IN THE
WORLD!



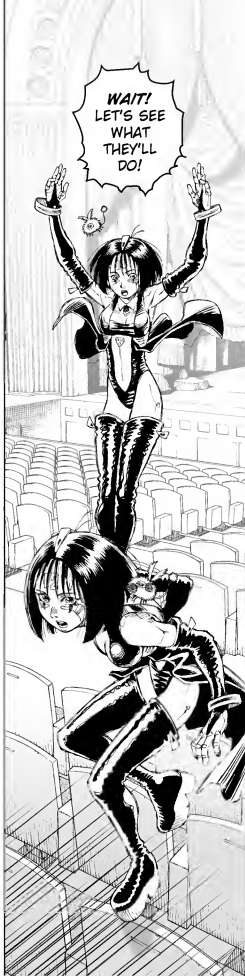
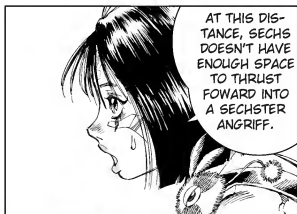
LET'S NOT
BE TASTY-
I M-MEAN,
HASTY!

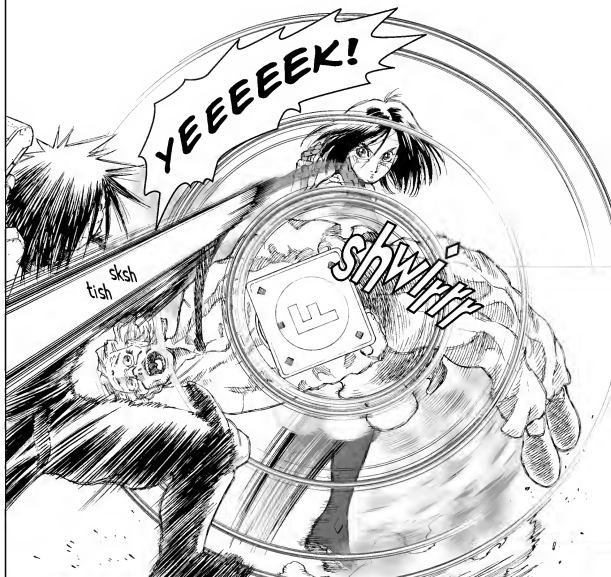
SO F
IS FOR
FLAN?

NOPE!
NOT FLAN
AT ALL!



ALITA!
SECHS!
LISTEN
TO ME!





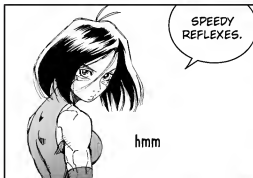
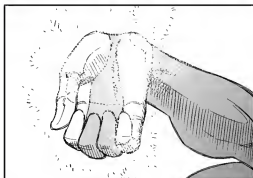








HERETON!!



SPEEDY REFLEXES.

hmm

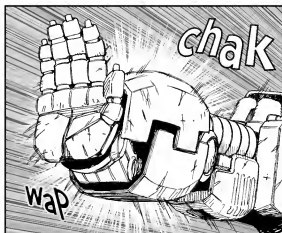


Skeeee



fwing!





*Trapping: A close-range technique used to counter an opponent's defensive moves. Rooted in Chinese Kung Fu and the Philippine martial art Kali.





I-IT...
IT CAN'T
BE!

I...I WAS
SURE I
EVADED THE
HERTZA
HAEON...

tnk



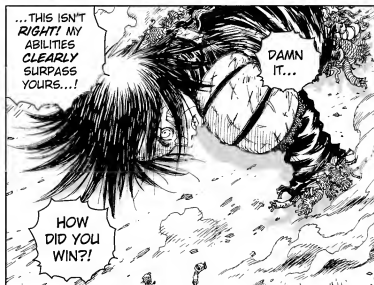
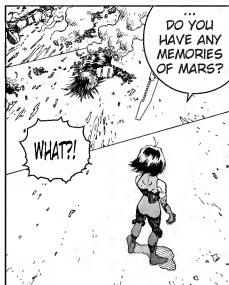
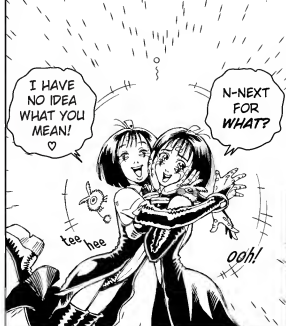
BUT THIS
IMAGINOS
BODY...ITS
POWER IS IN A
DIFFERENT
CLASS
ALTOGETHER!

IF IT WERE
THE
HERTZA
HAEON
FROM MY
TUNED DAYS,
YOU **WOULD**
HAVE.



THE
SLIGHTEST
TOUCH WAS
ENOUGH!

Vmm





THAT'S
WHAT
MADE THE
DIFFERENCE.



NO...
YOU'RE
NOT MY
SHADOW
ANYMORE.

TRY
LIVING
FREE.



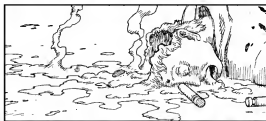
ARE YOU
GONNA
LECTURE
ME?!



COULD
USE WORK
ON YOUR
DEFENSE,
THOUGH.

BUT YOUR
SECHSTER
ANGRIFF?
PRETTY
GOOD!





...THEY
COULDN'T
EVEN DO A
DECENT JOB
OF BUYING
ME TIME!
USELESS
FOOLS...

DAVID...
AND THE
OTHERS...

COMPARED
TO THIS, HOW
CAN WE EVEN
CALL OUR
PREVIOUS
LIVES
"LIVING?!"
THIS...

ha ha ha

WHO
KNEW
KILLING
WOULD BE
SO MUCH
FUN?



wak fwak ha ha ha

MOTHER
MACHINE WILL
SPIT OUT THE
BRATS-AND
WE'LL HUNT
THEM DOWN!

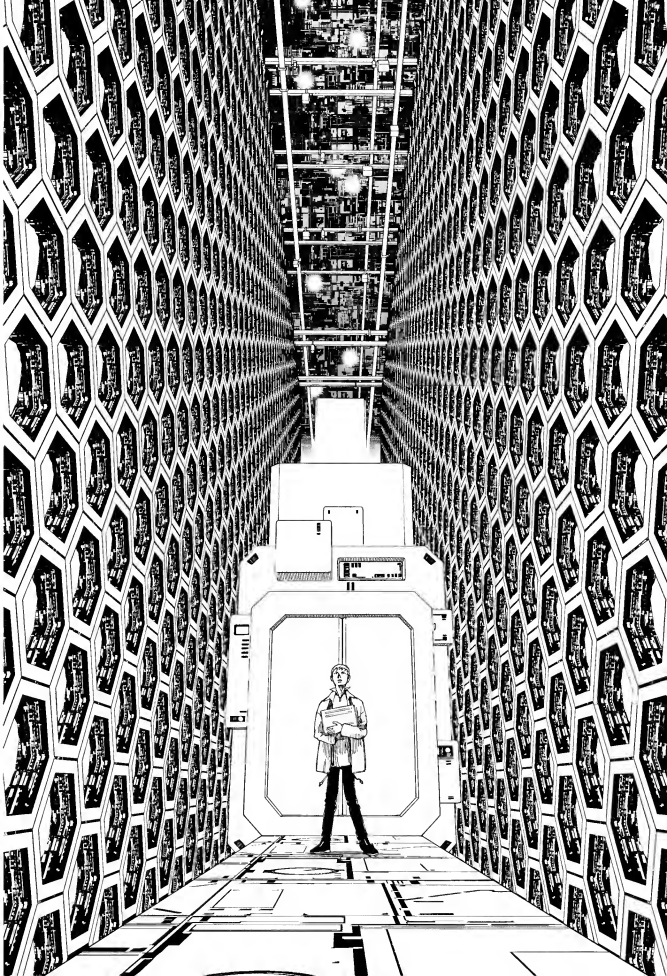
OH,
GOOD
IDEA!

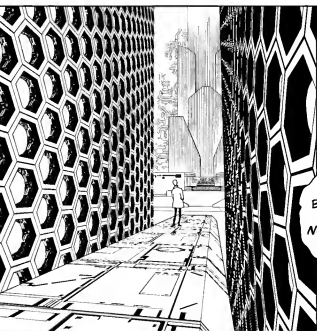
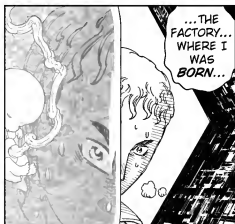
A DREAM
COME
TRUE!

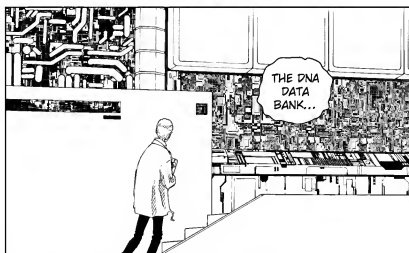
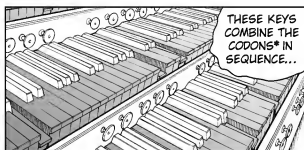
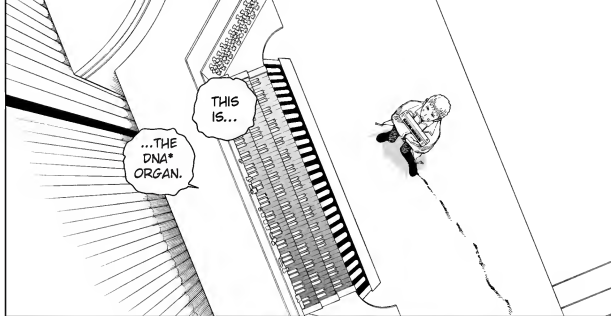
ha ha ha

...IS THE
PRIVILEGE
OF BEING
TRULY
HUMAN!

WHAT DO YOU
THINK-SHOULD
WE LEGALIZE
BLOOD
SPORTS IN
THE NEW
TIPHARES?!

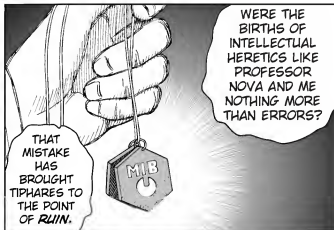
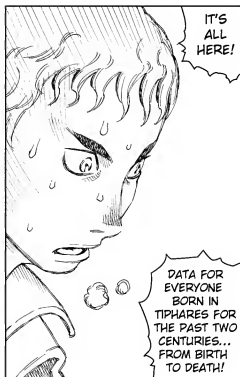
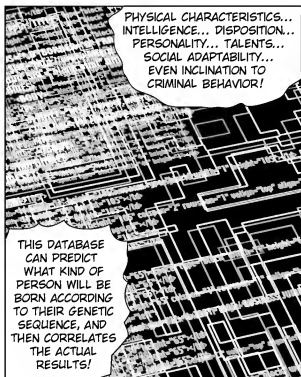


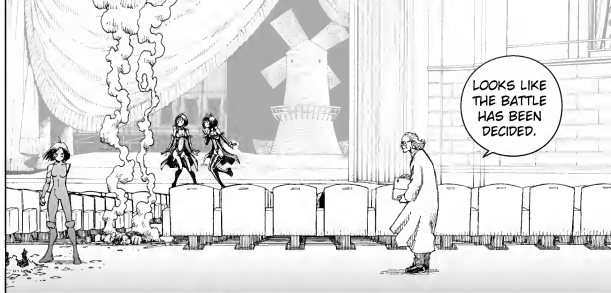




***DNA:** Deoxyribonucleic acid, a polymer that encodes an organism's genetic attributes in a series of four nucleotides (adenine, guanine, thymine and cytosine).

***Codon:** A triplet code of three adjacent nucleotides is the basic unit of the genetic code. There are 64 such sequences in all.





LOOKS LIKE
THE BATTLE
HAS BEEN
DECIDED.

NO, THAT WAS
THE REAL ME, ALL
THE WAY. YOU
SEE...



THAT
CORPSE IN
THE LAB...
WAS THAT
A FAKE
YOU?



HAPPY
NOW,
SECHS?



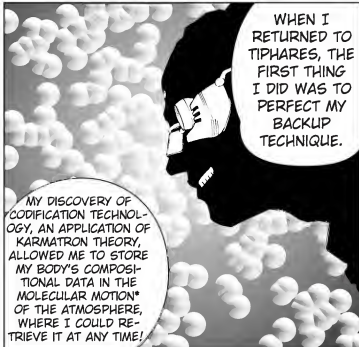
WHEN THE NOVA BODY
DIES, THE NANOMACHINE
NETWORK IN THE
ATMOSPHERE IS
IMMEDIATELY ACTIVATED...
CONSTRUCTING A PRECISE
DUPLICATE, EXACTLY
AS I WAS.



IN
OTHER
WORDS...

MY DISCOVERY OF
CODIFICATION TECHNOLOGY,
AN APPLICATION OF
KARMATRON THEORY,
ALLOWED ME TO STORE
MY BODY'S COMPOSITIONAL
DATA IN THE MOLECULAR MOTION*
OF THE ATMOSPHERE,
WHERE I COULD RETRIEVE
IT AT ANY TIME!

WHEN I
RETURNED TO
TIPHARES, THE
FIRST THING
I DID WAS TO
PERFECT MY
BACKUP
TECHNIQUE.



***Molecular motion:** Although it appears to be random noise, atomic-level movement can contain information. Sorted and codified, an infinite variety of signals could be extracted.

...I HAVE
BECOME THE
CLOSEST
THING TO
IMMORTAL
IN ALL OF
HUMAN
HISTORY.



I WOULDN'T
WANT YOU
TO. THAT'S
WHAT I
CALL...

...FREE
WILL.



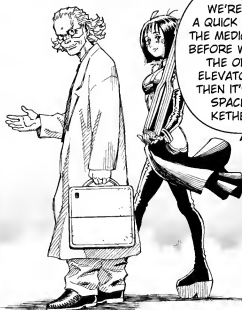
DO YOU
THINK I'VE
FORGOTTEN
WHAT
YOU'VE DONE
ON THE
SURFACE?!



AND THE
**BIGGEST
JERK!**



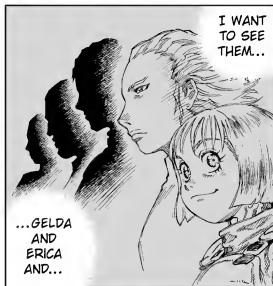
WOULD
YOU CARE
TO JOIN
US?



OKAY,
WE'RE OFF!
A QUICK TOUR OF
THE MEDICAL CORE
BEFORE WE REACH
THE ORBITAL
ELEVATOR—AND
THEN IT'S ON TO
SPACE CITY
KETHERES!



JOIN
YOU?
IN
SPACE?!



I WANT
TO SEE
THEM...

...GELDA
AND
ERICA
AND...



...AND
THEN I'LL
KNOW...

...KNOW
IF MY
MEMORIES
ARE
COMPLETE!



MY
HOME...
IS IN
SPACE...

MARS!

NO...



I HAVE
TO FIND
MY
FRIEND.



IF YOU
CHANGE
YOUR MIND,
COME
ALONG ANY
TIME!



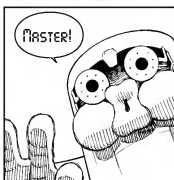
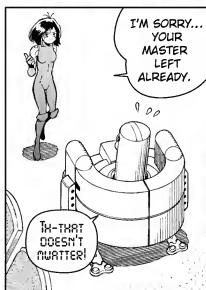
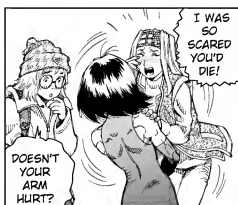
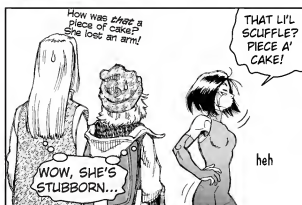
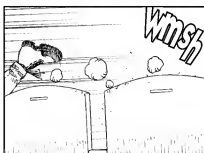
THEN WE'LL
GO ON
AHEAD TO
THE MEDICAL
CORE.

A FEW
MORE
DAYS
WON'T
HURT.



LADDER
HAS BEEN
AWAITING
ME FOR
DECADES
...





Deckman 100 Specs

Base: Deckman 10 Line
Head: Deckman brain + lust circuit;
comes with expandable memory
Personality: type B
Basic Command: crazy about Alita
Expansion BUS: DUV ver. 32.4
Factory control: discontinued, stand-
alone
Energy: Nova MD Engine with built-in
back-up batteries
Note: body compatible with outer space

DECKMAN 100 WAS
SPECIALLY REMODELED
BY PROFESSOR
NOVA—JUST TO BE
MASTER ALITA'S
SERVANT.

PLEASE LET
ME SERVE
YOU!

Hello.

URK

WHAT
ARE
YOU...?

OH!

YOU SURE
YOU'RE
NOT JUST
A SPY FOR
NOVA?

MIGHT
AS WELL
ARGUE WITH
A CRYING
CHILD...

-SIGH-

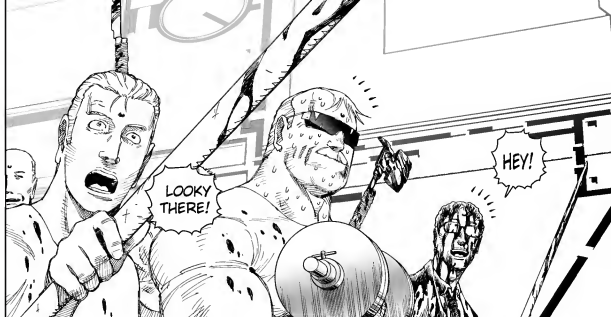
I WILL
REPAIR
YOUR
ARM!

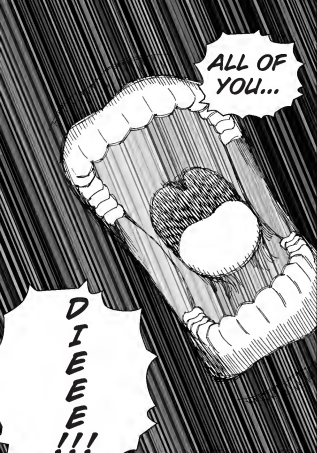
I AM EQUIPPED
WITH SPARE
MAGNUS BODY
CELLS AND A
COMPLETE
MAINTENANCE
SYSTEM!

LET'S
TAKE
HIM
WITH
US.

KINDA
CLUE, UP
CLOSE!

ALITA,
DON'T
BE
MEAN.



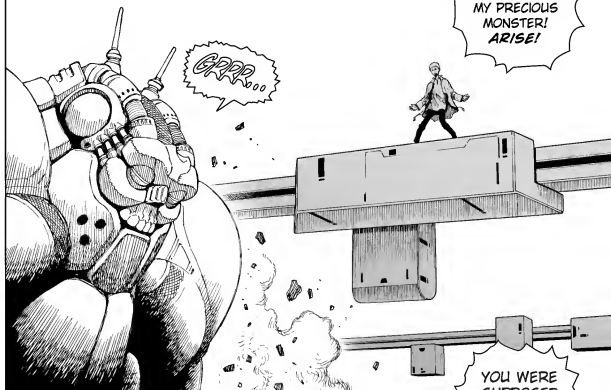






GROWRR!

plok

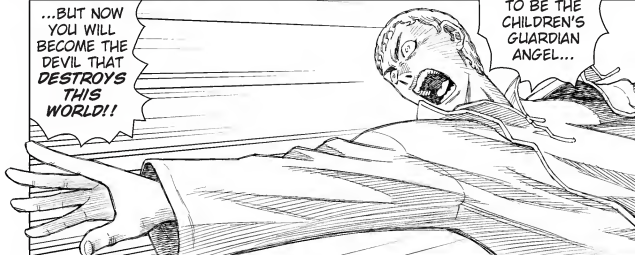


SACHIMODO,
MY PRECIOUS
MONSTER!
ARISE!

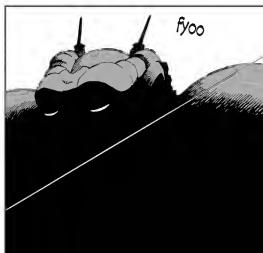
GRRR...

YOU WERE
SUPPOSED
TO BE THE
CHILDREN'S
GUARDIAN
ANGEL...

...BUT NOW
YOU WILL
BECOME THE
DEVIL THAT
DESTROYS
THIS
WORLD!!



thwuk



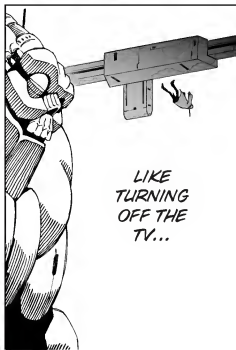
fyoo

.....



PUT
AN
END...

...TO
THIS
PATHETIC
WORLD...

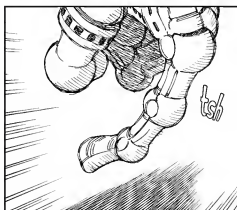


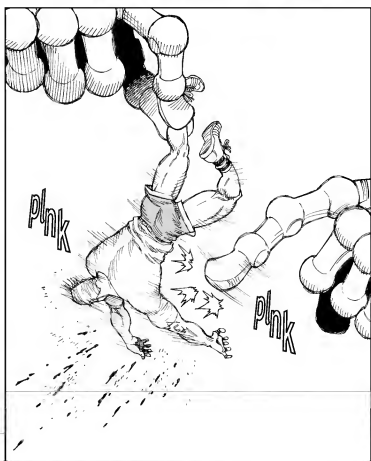


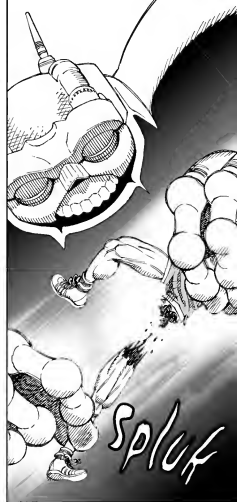
PHASE-07

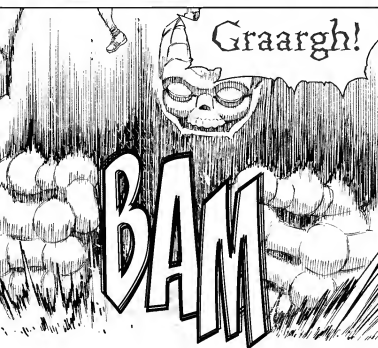
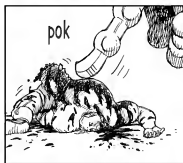
The World Is Cruel

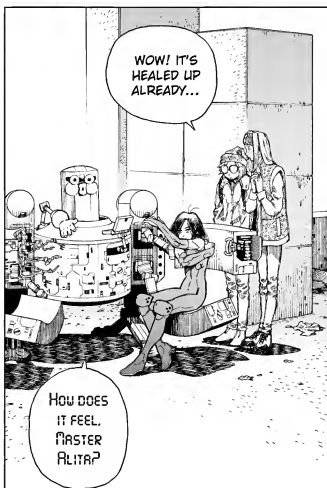
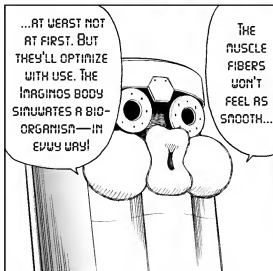














SINCE I GOT THIS BODY, I SOMETIMES FEEL LIKE I'M SLIPPING OUT OF MY BODY DURING HIGH-SPEED COMBAT.

BECAUSE OF THAT, I'VE HAD SOME CLOSE CALLS WHERE I WASN'T ABLE TO REACH TOP SPEED. DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT?



YOU SURE KNOW A LOT.

Aww! You make me blush!



SO TELL ME...



...AN OUT-OF-BODY EXPERIENCE!



ALITA! YOU MUST BE HAVING ...

EXPERT SYSTEM SEARCH!

WIT
WIT
WIT



WELL, I WON'T ASK NOVA TO EXAMINE ME, THAT'S FOR SURE...

Hmm



IN ANY CASE, I THINK THE CAUSE IS IN THE BRAIN, NOT THE BODY.



SOUNDS A LITTLE LIKE A CONDITION CALLED "PHANTOM LIMB." *

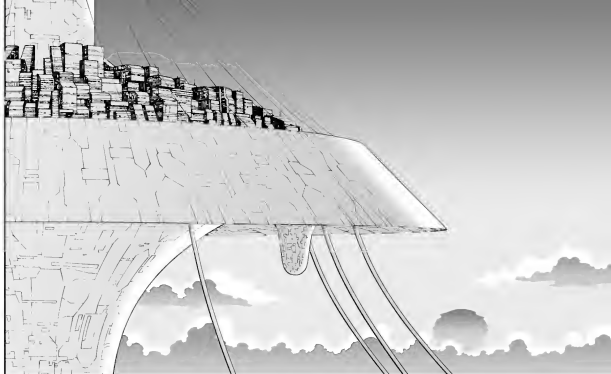


WOW! AN ASTRAL TRIP!

UM...



***Phantom limb:** A vivid sensation that an amputated limb is still present. This occurs when the somatosensory cortex does not fully reorganize the internalized body map. The term was first suggested by S.W. Mitchell, an American physician (1829-1914).



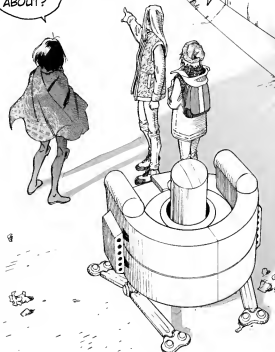
THE ADULTS ARE OUR ENEMIES. IF WE'RE CAUGHT, THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT THEY'LL DO...

WE BETTER WAIT HERE.



WEAVE IT TO ME.

ALL RIGHT. NO. 100, PROTECT THE GIRLS HERE.

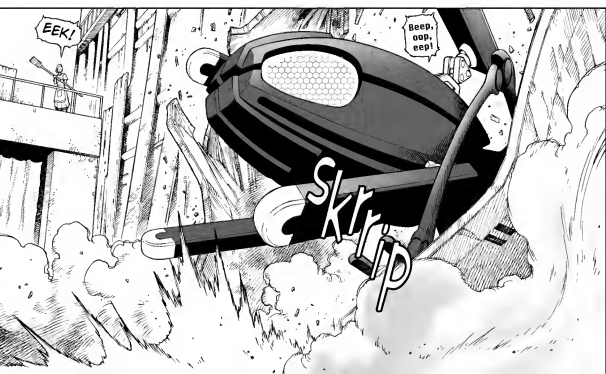
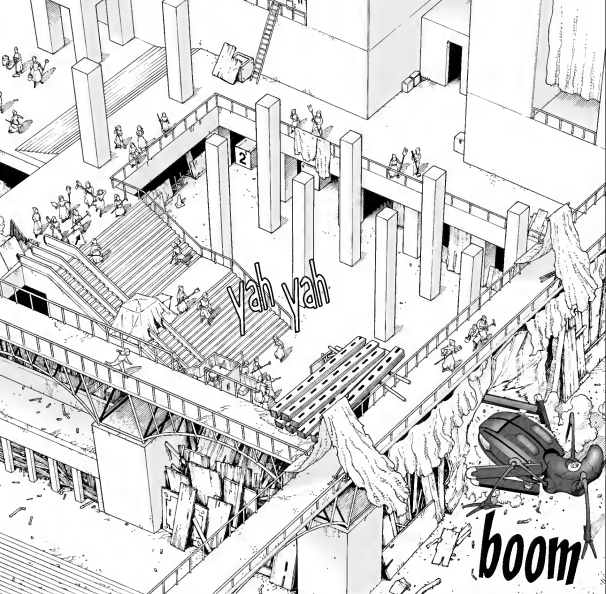


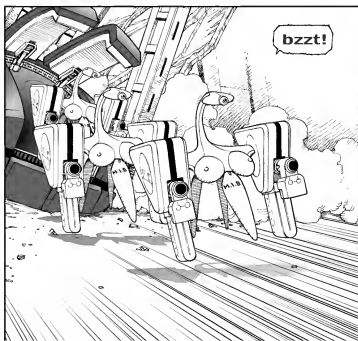
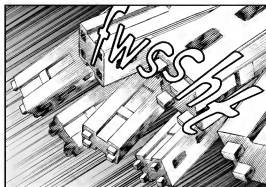
yah yah

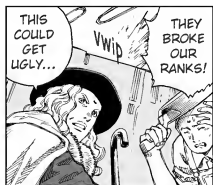
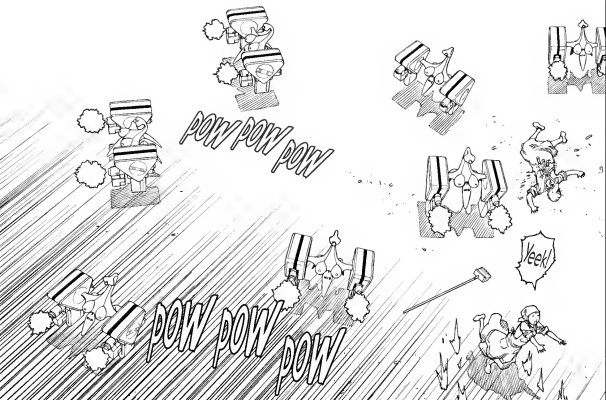
WE MADE IT!

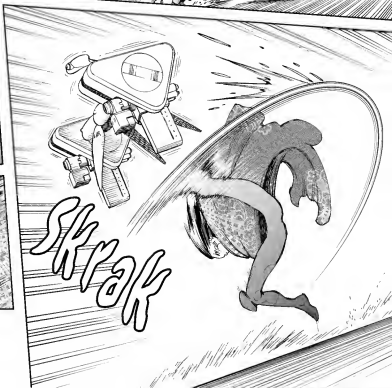
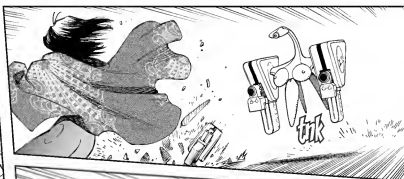
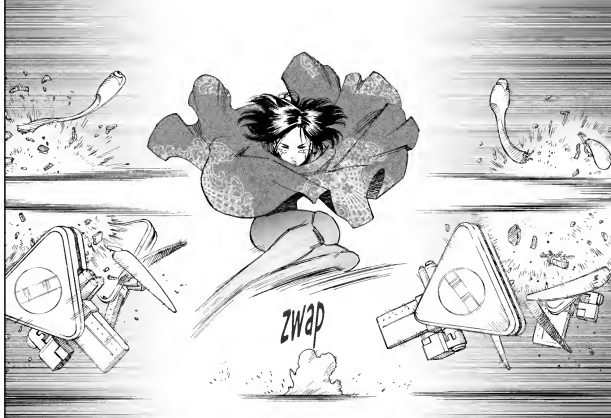
THE ADULTS' CAMP SHOULD BE JUST UP AHEAD.

WHAT'S ALL THE RUCKUS ABOUT?

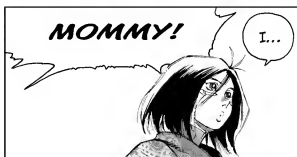














PAM! MY
BABY!
YOU'RE
ALIVE!



STOP
RIGHT
THERE!

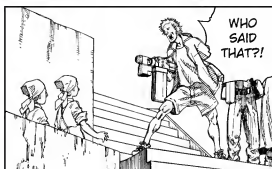


WH...
WHAT...
?



PAM...
YOU
TRAITOR
!







TAKE THE
BRAT
AND GET
OUT OF
HERE!



YOU
BAS-
TARD!



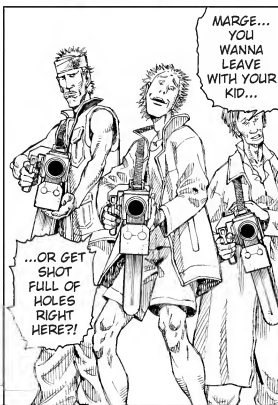
THERE'S NO
REASON WE
SURVIVORS
SHOULD HAVE TO
FIGHT EACH
OTHER!
BESIDES—THEY'RE
STILL *CHILDREN*!

IT'S
TIME
YOU
FOOLS
WOKE
UP!



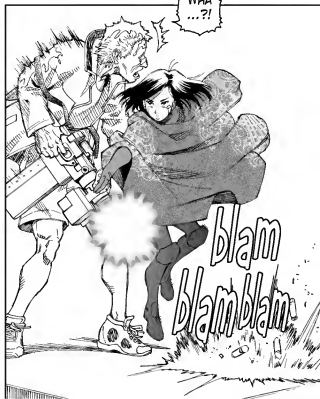
PAM AND
I AREN'T
GOING
ANY-
WHERE.

GO ON—
SHOOT
IF YOU
WANT!



MARGE...
YOU
WANNA
LEAVE
WITH YOUR
KID...

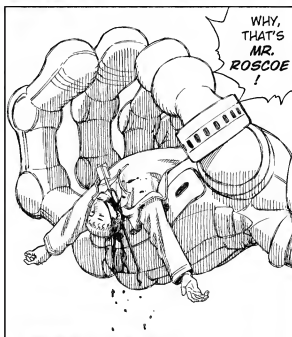
...OR GET
SHOT
FULL OF
HOLES
RIGHT
HERE?!





GUESS THE
TABLES
HAVE BEEN
TURNED...







~SIGH~
YOU
WANNA,
ZWÖLF?

SURE,
LET'S
DO IT!
♥



ELF!
ZWÖLF!
GET MR.
ROSCOE
OUT OF
THAT
MONSTER'S
CLUTCHES!
BRING HIM
TO ME!

I DO INDEED!
YOUNG JIM
ROSCOE WAS
THE MAN I
PICKED AS MY
SUCCESSOR.

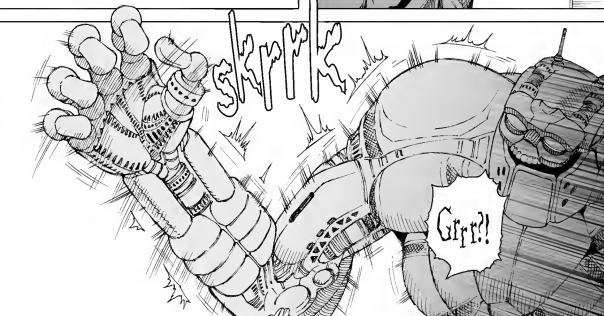


WIRE
WORK!



~ing!

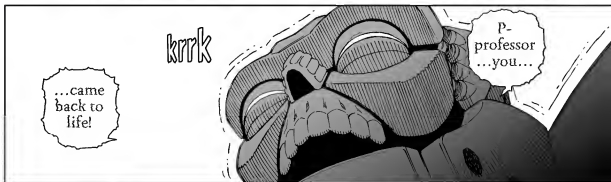






NO HOPE
OF ESCAPE
NOW! ONE
MOVE AND
IT'LL RIP
ITSELF
APART.

I LOST
MY RIGHT
ARM
THAT
WAY
ONCE...



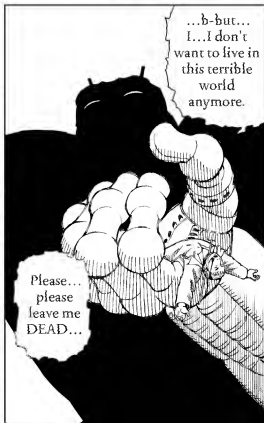
...came
back to
life!

P-
professor
...you...



IT
CAN'T
BE...

IS THAT
YOU, MR.
ROSCOE?!



...b-but...
I...I don't
want to live in
this terrible
world
anymore.

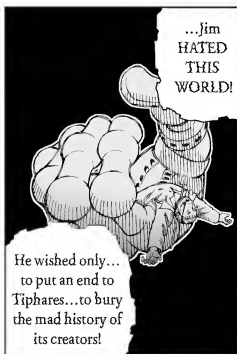
Please...
please
leave me
DEAD...



?!

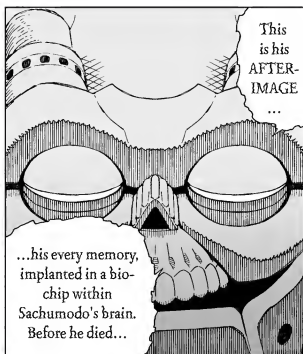


IT
TALKS
?!



...Jim
HATED
THIS
WORLD!

He wished only...
to put an end to
Tiphares...to bury
the mad history of
its creators!



This
is his
AFTER-
IMAGE
...

...his every memory,
implanted in a bio-
chip within
Sachumodo's brain.
Before he died...

YOU
CANNOT
FIGHT
FATE.

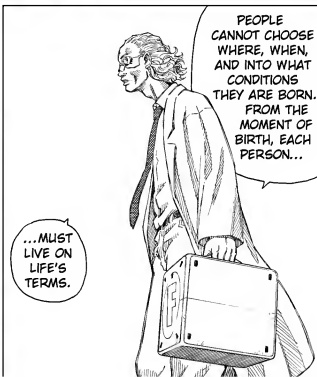


AH, MY
POOR
BOY!



THE
WORLD
IS
CRUEL.

BUT
THAT'S
ONLY
NATURAL.



PEOPLE
CANNOT CHOOSE
WHERE, WHEN,
AND INTO WHAT
CONDITIONS
THEY ARE BORN.
FROM THE
MOMENT OF
BIRTH, EACH
PERSON...

...MUST
LIVE ON
LIFE'S
TERMS.



THE SOUL
DOES NOT
EXIST... THE
SPIRIT
MERELY
SYNAPTIC
SPARKS...

THE
BEGINNING
OF LIFE IS
NAUGHT BUT
A CHEMICAL
REACTION...

...AND
HUMAN
EXISTENCE
IS NAUGHT
BUT A
SHADOW
OF MEMORY
DATA.

WE LIVE ALONE,
AS WE MUST—
IN A GODLESS,
MERCILESS
WORLD...
AND YET...

TO
LIVE!

UNDER THE
GUISE
OF FREE
WILL, WE
COMMAND
OUR-
SELVES...



IT MAY BE
INEVITABLE THAT,
SO YOUNG, YOU
BUCKLED UNDER
THE BURDEN OF
THE WORLD'S
KARMA.

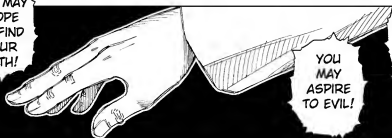


YOU MAY
GROPE
TO FIND
YOUR
PATH!

BUT,
UNLESS
YOU ARE
ALIVE...

YOU
MAY
ASPIRE
TO EVIL!

YOU MAY
ASPIRE
TO
GOOD!



...WELL, MY
BOY—UNLESS
YOU ARE ALIVE,
NO TALENT
WILL EVER
BEAR FRUIT!



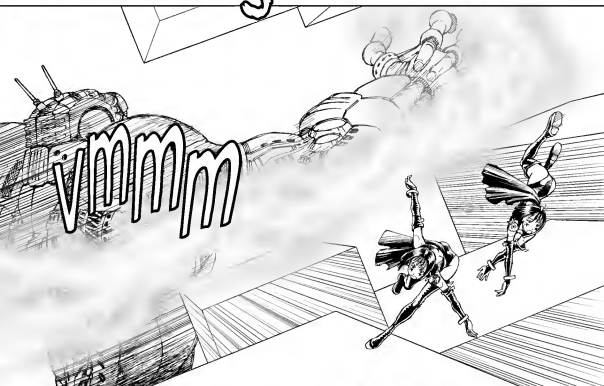




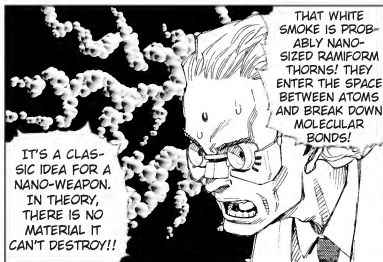
Pwaa



OUR
WIRE!
CUT...?!



***Morion omichle:** The Greek words for "molecule" and "mist."





MR. ROSCOE!



THE
CEILING'S
STARTING
TO COL-
LAPSE!

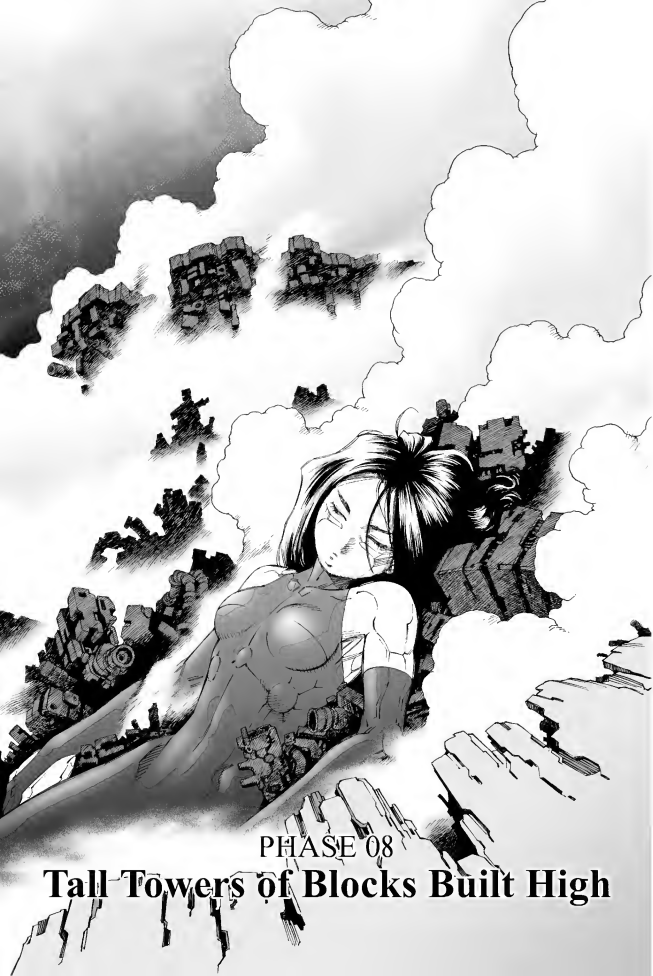
PROFES-
SOR,
LET'S
GET OUT
OF HERE!



SKRASH

GRAAUGH!





PHASE 08

Tall Towers of Blocks Built High



THE ONLY
POSSIBILITY
LEFT IS THE
M.I.B.
CORE...

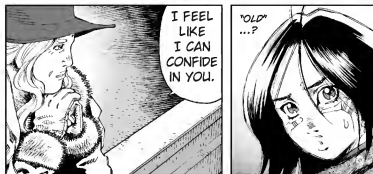
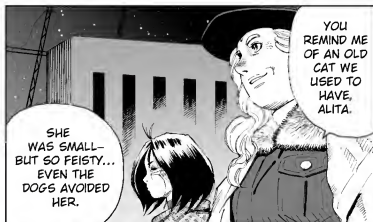
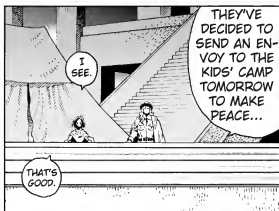
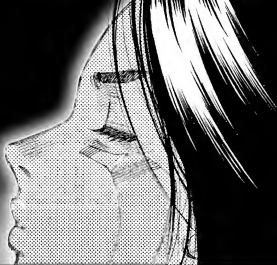


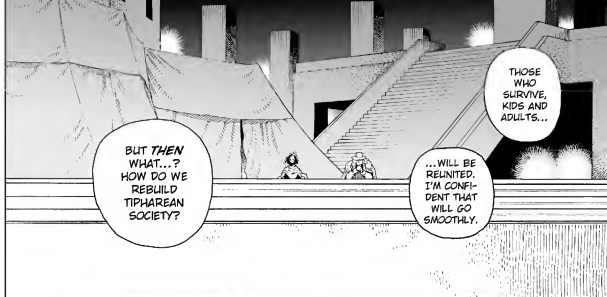
ACCORDING TO
WITNESS
TESTIMONY, SHE
WAS PLACED IN
M.I.B. CUSTODY A
YEAR AGO...

LOW WASN'T
IN THIS
CAMP
AFTER
ALL...



LOU...
PLEASE BE
ALIVE...!





BUT THEN
WHAT...?
HOW DO WE
REBUILD
TIPHAREAN
SOCIETY?

THOSE
WHO
SURVIVE,
KIDS AND
ADULTS...

...WILL BE
RELINQUISHED.
I'M CONFIDENT
THAT
WILL GO
SMOOTHLY.



IF NOT,
YOU'LL
JUST
DIE
OUT.



WITHOUT
IT, CAN WE
RECREATE
A PEACEFUL
SOCIETY?

WE'VE
ALWAYS
DEPEND-
ED ON
M.I.B...

...A SYSTEM
WITH NO HUMAN
INVOLVEMENT, TO
GOVERN US AND
KEEP US SAFE,
FROM BIRTH
TILL DEATH.



IF YOU'RE
GOING TO
CONSTRUCT A
FREE NATION
WITHOUT
M.I.B.
CONTROL...

...YOU'LL
HAVE TO
MAKE **PEACE**
WITH THE
SURFACE!



OUCH!
THAT'S
HARSH!

AND
THERE'S
SOMETHING
I'D ADD FROM
MY POINT OF
VIEW...



I WANT
YOU TO
REMEMBER
THAT.

LIFE IN
TIPHARES IS
BUILT ON THE
SACRIFICES
OF THOSE
ON THE
SURFACE...

...THE
SPACE CITY
KETHERES.
HUH?

THE
OTHER
THING I'M
AFRAID
OF...

THANK
YOU.

HADN'T
THOUGHT
OF
THAT...

...SOME
MYSTERIOUS
ARCHITECT...
MUST HAVE
CREATED THIS
HUGE STRUCTURE,
THIS AIRTIGHT
SYSTEM, MANY
CENTURIES
AGO...RIGHT?

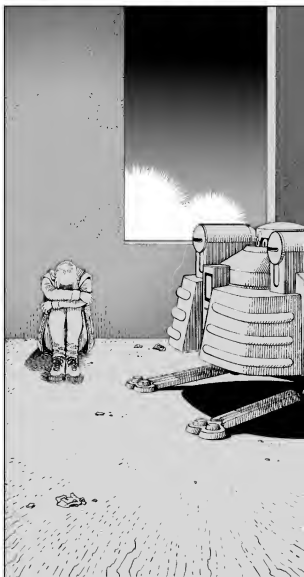
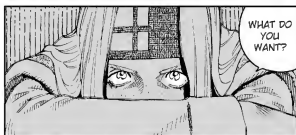


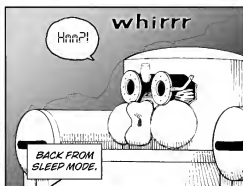
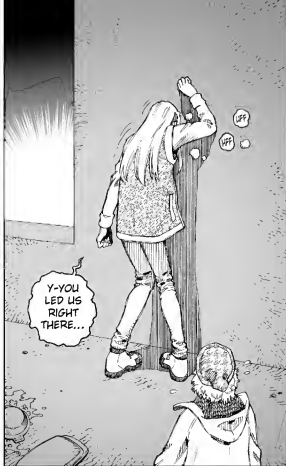
...IS THE
MASTER
PLAN THAT
MADE
TIPHARES
THIS WAY.
**SOME-
ONE...**

THE
**ARCHI-
TECT...** IF
IT STILL
EXISTS...

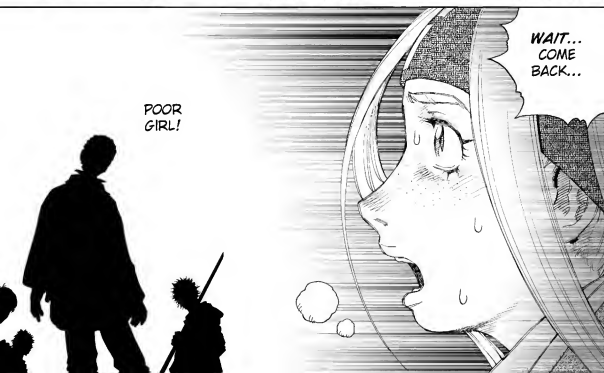
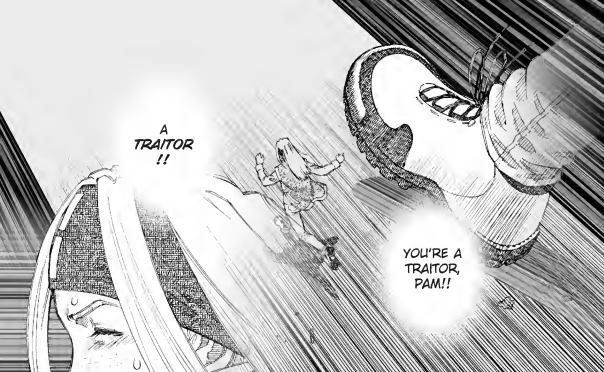
...THAT
ARCHITECT
HASN'T
STEPPED IN.
BUT WILL IT
CONTINUE TO
LEAVE US
TO OUR
OWN
DEVICES?

EVEN
AFTER
THE
CHAOS
OF THE
PAST
WEEK...











THEY'RE
NOT
HUMAN,
THEY'RE
THINGS!

JIM WAS
RIGHT!
THERE WAS
NOTHING
TO BE SAD
ABOUT!

ALITA
...

Splash

EVEN IF YOUR
BRAIN'S A
CHIP, A
HUMAN BEING
IS A
HUMAN BEING.

JIM!
WHERE DID
YOU GO?!

PLEASE
DON'T
LEAVE
ME
BEHIND!



WHERE
DO I HAVE
TO GO
HOME TO?

SO
IF WHAT
YOU'RE
SAYING IS
TRUE...



THINGS
ARE FINE
FOR PAM!
SHE
FOUND
HER
MOM...

BUT MY
MOM AND
DAD ARE
GONE...



**TELL
ME!!**



ALITA!!

**TELL
ME,
I SAID!**



I DON'T
WANT
TO...

...BE
ALONE...



STRONG
AS
YOU...

...I CAN'T
BE AS...







...through
a giant's
eyes!

How
strange
the
world
looks...

...do I see
them for what
they are! Mere
structures—
to mold and
order the
pliant lives
within.

The solemn
walls and
columns
that used to
overwhelm...
Only
now...

In that
moment,
I felt
liberated.

I
knocked
it
down!

I built it
higher and
higher,
adding more
and more
blocks.
Then...

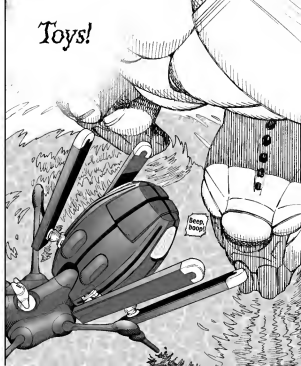
When I
was little I
spent a long
time building
a big tower
out of blocks.

...was
upsetting
someone
else's
tower of
blocks!

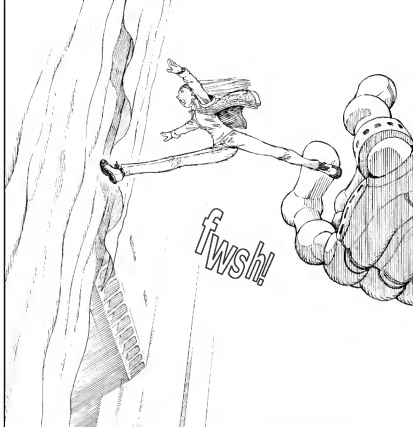
The
only
greater
feeling...

Can I
ever
topple
them
all?

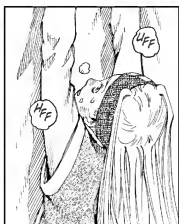
And now,
just look!
Block
towers as
far as I can
see!







Where
do you
think
you're
going?





Stay!
Play
with
me!

EEEEK!
STOP,
STOP,
STOP!

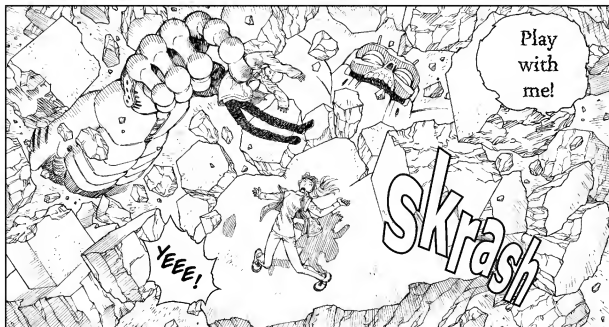
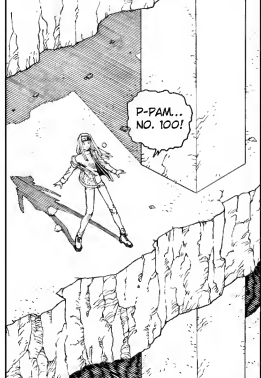


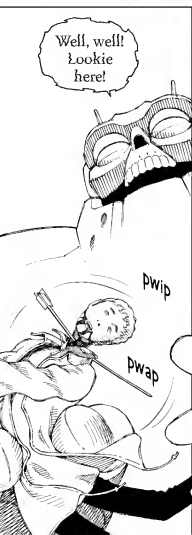
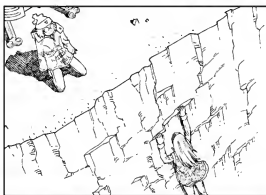
Nola...
it's not
nice to
run
away.



H-HOW
DOES IT
KNOW MY
NAME?!

You're
making
me feel
sad.







THE WAY
HE TALKS!
HE
COULDN'T
BE...



COULD
HE...?

Once you
quit living,
the world's
just a giant
tower of
blocks!
It's fun.



...but
there's no
need to
grieve.

See how
things are?
I died...



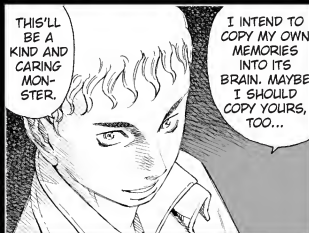
WHAT
ARE
YOU
UP TO?

YOU'RE
WORK-
ING
LATE.



HA,
HA,
HA,
HA!

MONSTER?
SOUNDS
SCARY.



THIS'LL
BE A
KIND AND
CARING
MON-
STER.

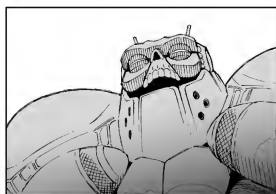
I INTEND TO
COPY MY OWN
MEMORIES
INTO ITS
BRAIN. MAYBE
I SHOULD
COPY YOURS,
TOO...



I'VE SENT
SOME DATA
TO THE M.I.B.
FACTORY THAT
WILL CREATE
A MONSTER.

kata kata
kata

ONCE IT'S
COMPLETE,
IT'LL BE ABLE
TO KILL ALL
THE ADULTS!





I'LL HAVE TO
LIVE ACCEPTING
THAT EVEN
PEOPLE WITH
CHIPS FOR
BRAINS ARE
STILL HUMAN...

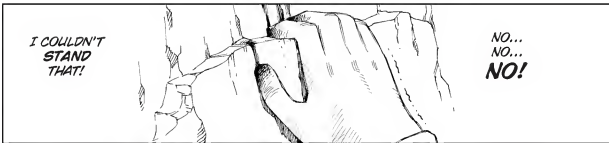
THAT'S
RIGHT...

IF I TAKE
PAM'S
HAND...



I'LL HAVE
TO CONFRONT
MY OWN
SINS
AND
WEAKNESSES!

AND
EVERY
DAY...
EVERY
SINGLE
DAY...



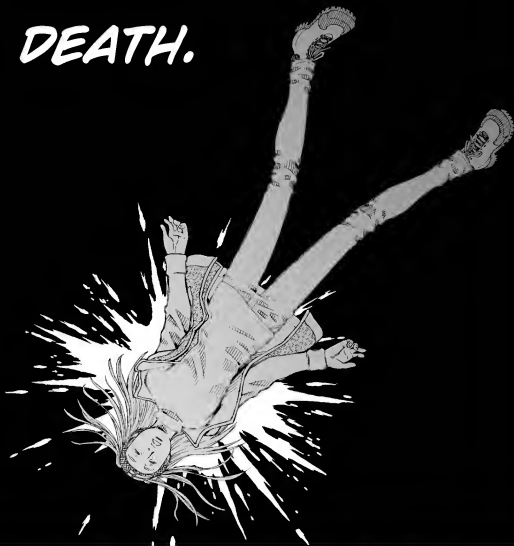
I COULDN'T
STAND
THAT!

NO...
NO...
NO!



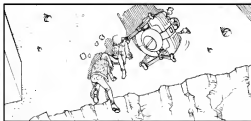
BUT THERE'S
STILL ONE
WAY...
ONE WAY
TO CHANGE
EVERYTHING...
EVEN FOR
SOMEONE
LIKE ME...

DEATH.



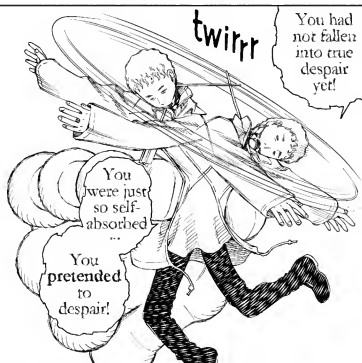
JIM!





I
LOVED
YOU,
JIM.

FARE-
WELL...



You
were just
so self-
absorbed
...

You
pretended
to despair!

You had
not fallen
into true
despair
yet!

I
see.

.....

But I'll
teach
you what
real despair
feels like!





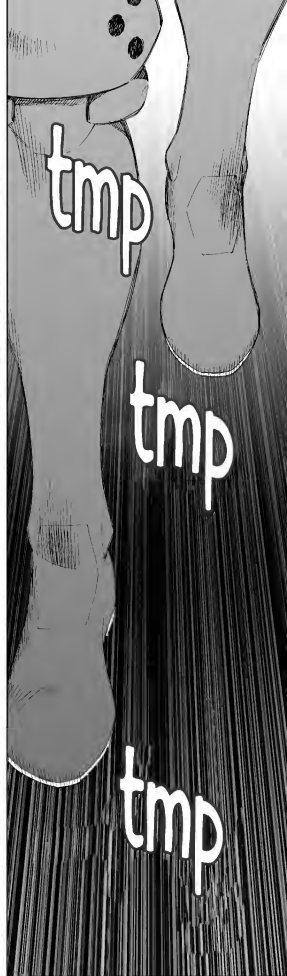
...PLAY
WITH
ME.

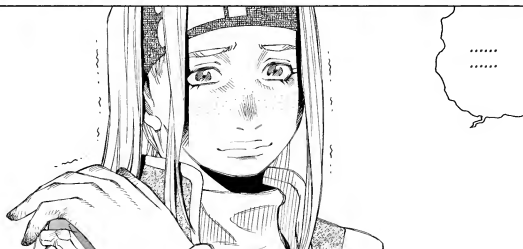
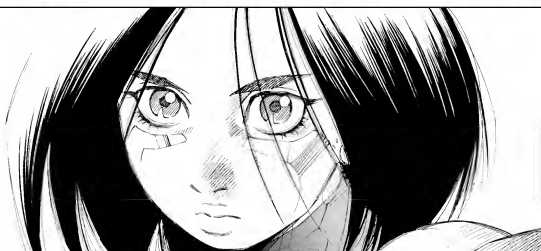
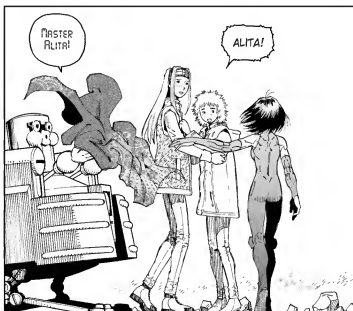


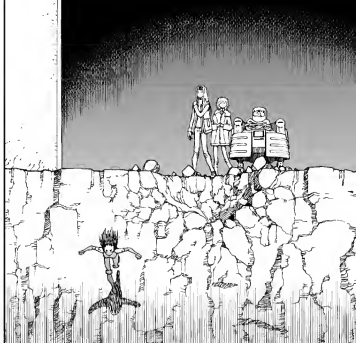
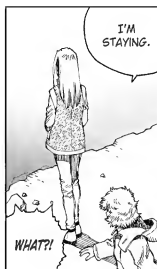




PHASE.09  ..
No More Excuses









CATCH ME
IF YOU
CAN!

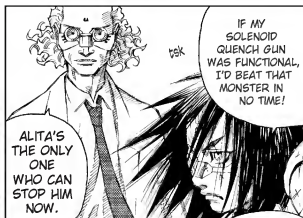
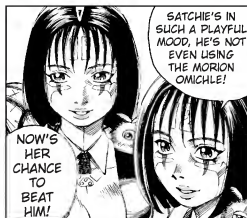


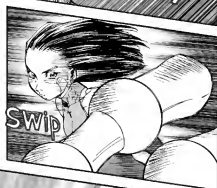
jwing!

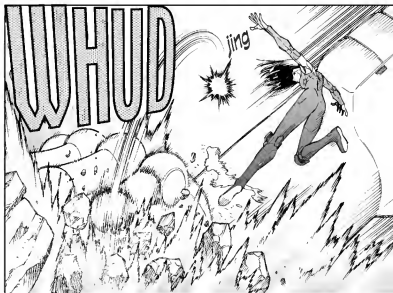


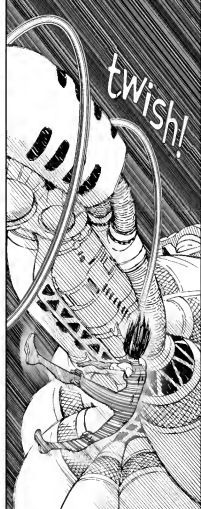
Yaaay!

knk
tnk

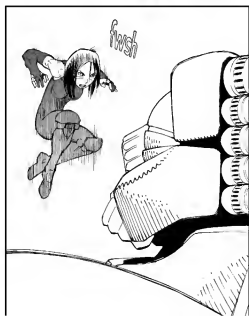
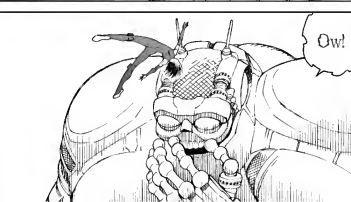
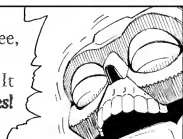


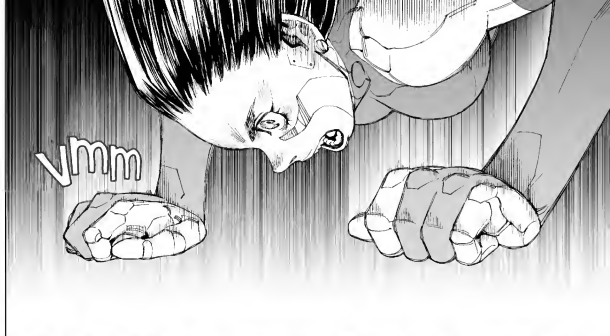






Tee, hee,
hee!
Stop! It
tickles!





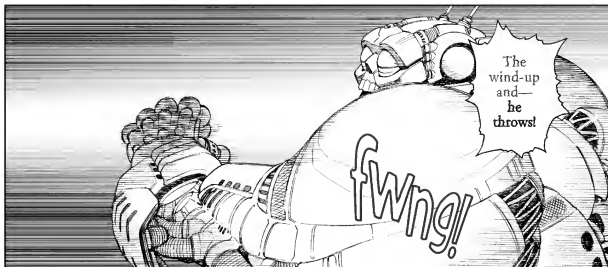
Vmm



H
a
e
e
n

H
e
r
t
z
a

Zwamsh
Doppelt!!





ONLY THE USE OF **PLASMA** CAN DEFEAT SACHUMODO.

ALITA, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

...LNGH...

YOU'LL NEED TO **CREATE** THE PLASMA TORCH YOURSELF, OUT OF YOUR **WILL** AND **IMAGINATION**.

HOWEVER, THE IMAGINOS BODY, UNLIKE THE BERSERKER BODY, ISN'T DEFAULT-EQUIPPED WITH A PLASMA-PRODUCING ORGAN.

I THINK **HER** BRAIN CAN TAKE IT...

SHE TOOK THAT HEAD-ON! WILL HER BRAIN BE OK?

IS THAT PART OF HER PLAN?

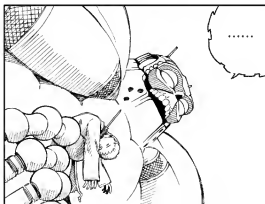
.....

tnk tok



Ah...
Professor
Novak!
We meet
again.

...P-
PLASMA...



.....
I'LL
TRADE
YOU
ALITA
FOR IT!

SURELY
YOU'VE
PLAYED WITH
MR. ROSCOE'S
CORPSE
ENOUGH BY
NOW. CAN I
HAVE IT?



...so you can
never make
him suffer the
torments of
this world
again!



No
way!

You're
planning to
regenerate Jim
with your damn
karma theory! I'll
disintegrate him on
the molecular
level...





IT'S NO
USE.

I CAN'T
DO IT...



PLASMA...

JUST
FIGHT
HOWEVE-
R YOU
LIKE.

VERY
WELL.



BUT BE
CAREFUL IF
SACHUMODO'S
HANDS EMIT A
SMOKY SUB-
STANCE...



And it's
a line-
drive!



...BUT I
JUST DON'T
HAVE THAT
RAZOR-
SHARP
PURITY
ANYMORE.

I KNOW
I'M A
BETTER
FIGHTER
THAN I
WAS
THEN...



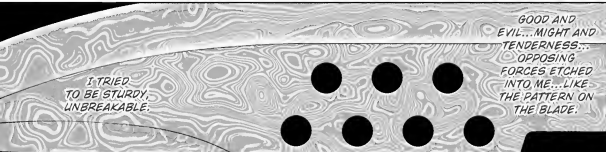
IT'S BEEN
SO LONG
SINCE I
USED
PLASMA.



...I TRIED
TO BECOME
LIKE MY
DAMASCUS
BLADE...



DOWN ON THE
SURFACE...



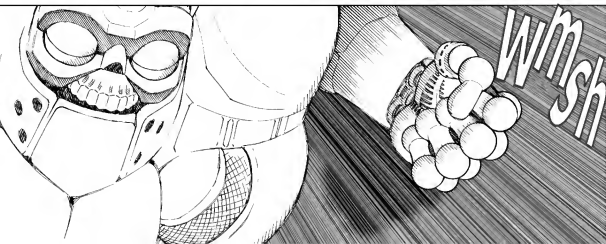
I TRIED
TO BE STURDY,
UNBREAKABLE.

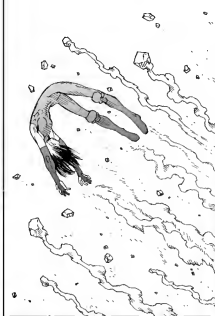
GOOD AND
EVIL... MIGHT AND
TENDERNESS...
OPPOSING
FORCES ETCHED
INTO ME... LIKE
THE PATTERN ON
THE BLADE.



OR DID I
POLISH IT
TOO HARD,
GRINDING IT
DOWN UNTIL
IT COULD
NO LONGER
SERVE AS A
WEAPON?

DID I
NEGLECT TO
SHARPEN
THAT BLADE?
LET IT GROW
DULL?





THAT'S
NOT
STRENGTH!

HE'S
JUST
BIG AND
TOUGH!

FWOOO

HE'S TOO
STRONG!
ALITA'S
GONNA DIE!



**YOU'RE
THE
MOST
POWERFUL
WARRIOR!**

**ALITA,
WHAT
THE HELL
ARE YOU
DOING?!**



...THE
MOST...
POWER...

...THE...



thwak
wak

**NO! I
DON'T
WANNA!**

**I DON'T
WANNA
FIGHT
ANYMORE!**



E-ERICA...



**GET UP,
YOKO!
C'MON!**

BUT...
BUT...BUT...
I DON'T
WANNA...!



WE
PROMISED
WE'D BE
WARRIORS
TOGETHER—
LIKE
GELDA!

BESIDES,
YOU CAN'T
SURVIVE IF
YOU DON'T
LEARN HOW
TO FIGHT!

—SIGH—
YOU'RE
SUCH A
BABY.



YOU CAN EITHER
BE A **SLAVE**,
OR YOU CAN
BECOME THE
**MOST
POWERFUL
WARRIOR!**



LISTEN, YOKO.
IF YOU DON'T
WANT TO DIE,
THERE ARE
ONLY TWO
WAYS TO LIVE
WITHOUT
FIGHTING.



DOES THE MOST
POWERFUL
WARRIOR
REALLY NOT
HAFTA FIGHT?

NO.



DO YOU
WANT TO
BE A
SLAVE?



THEN I'LL
BE THE
MOST
POWERFUL
WARRIOR!

I'LL BE
THE BEST,
AND I WON'T
HAFTA FIGHT
EVER
AGAIN!



THEY SAY
THAT IF
YOU'RE THE
MOST
POWERFUL
WARRIOR—

—THE BATTLE
WILL BE OVER
BEFORE IT
BEGINS. I DON'T
GET IT EITHER...
BUT IF MEISTER
SAYS IT, IT MUST
BE TRUE!



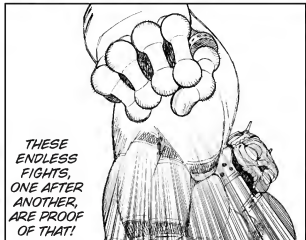
LOOKS
LIKE I'M
NOWHERE
CLOSE TO
THAT
GOAL...

HEH,
HEH ...



WHY
DO I
DO
IT?

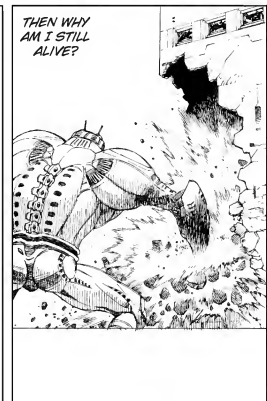
BECAUSE
I'M ALIVE.



THESE
ENDLESS
FIGHTS,
ONE AFTER
ANOTHER,
ARE PROOF
OF THAT!



WHY DO
I KEEP
PUTTING
UP WITH
THIS?



THEN WHY
AM I STILL
ALIVE?

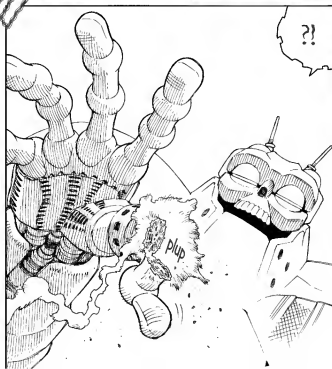
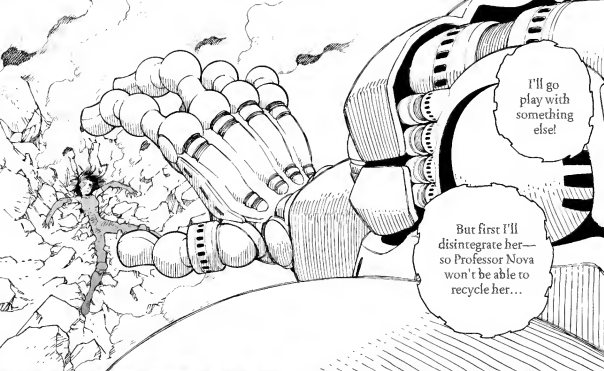
AT THE
MERCY OF
FATE...

SEPARATED FROM
THOSE DEAREST
TO ME...



I'm
bored!





WHAT DO
I OWE TO
ANYONE
ELSE?

zssssshhhhtttt



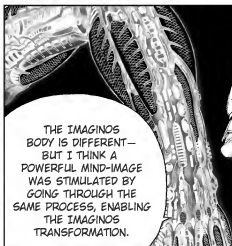
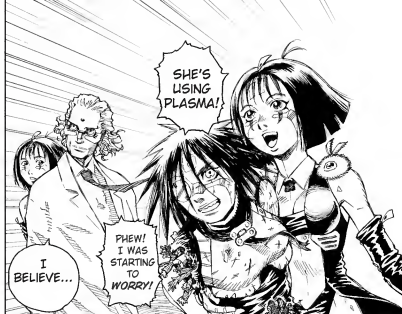
LET OTHER
PEOPLE
FIND THEIR
OWN
EXCUSES!

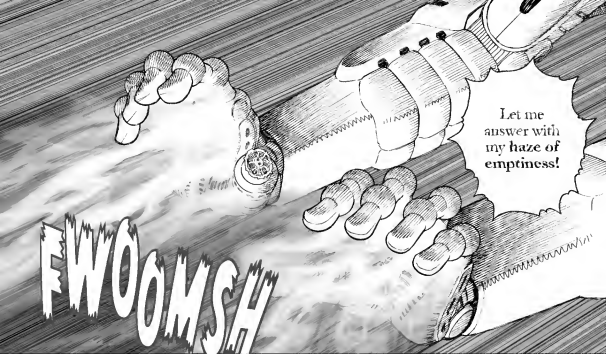
AS FOR
ME...

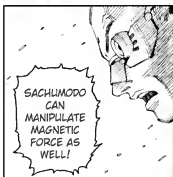
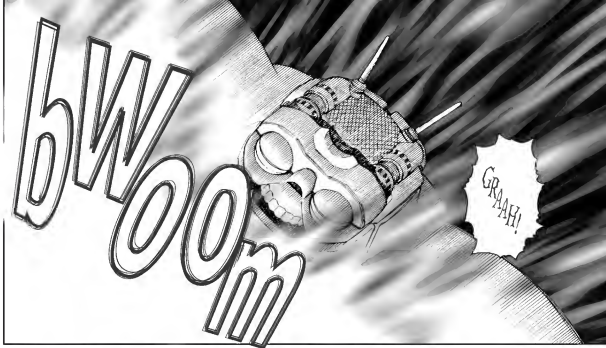
**Shit
shit**

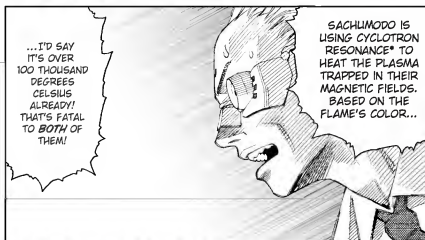


I DON'T
NEED A
REASON
TO LIVE!!









***Cyclotron resonance:** Plasma in a magnetic field is heated through the resonance effect when the vibration frequency of an oscillating electromagnetic field matches the gyro-frequency of the charged particles in the plasma. This effect is known as Ion Cyclotron Resonance Heating, and enables the generation of superheated plasma over 100 million degrees Celsius in temperature.



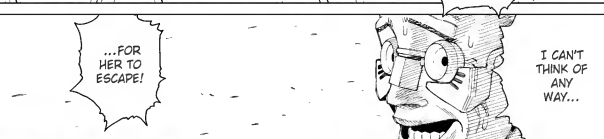
Vwoomsh

IT'S
A
PLASMA
CUPOLA!



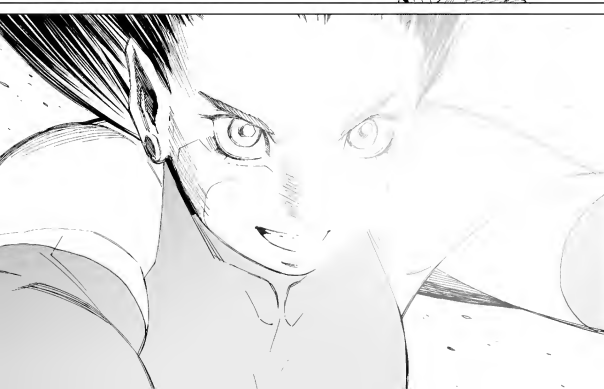
NOW THAT
THEY'RE LOCKED
IN POSITION WITH
THE PLASMA IN
BETWEEN THEM,
ALITA IS AT AN
OVERWHELMING
DISADVANTAGE!

IF THE COMPETING
MAGNETIC FIELDS
LOSE THEIR
BALANCE EVEN
SLIGHTLY, THE
WEAKER ONE WILL
BE SHOWERED WITH
SUPERHEATED
PLASMA.



...FOR
HER TO
ESCAPE!

I CAN'T
THINK OF
ANY
WAY...



TIPHARES: ITS MORPHOLOGY

EXPOSÉ!

*Tiphares is shrouded in mystery.
Let's take a look back at what has been illuminated thus far
about the city in the sky.*

Tiphares is roughly divided into three sections:

• RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT

All citizens live here. They are encouraged to participate in sports, cultural events, and academics—though scholarly pursuits are restricted to abstract fields such as mathematics and philosophy.

• STRUCTURAL SECTION

The physical support of Tiphares, this section includes all equipment necessary for the upkeep of a society, such as power supplies, food-processing plants, and distribution networks.

• MEDICAL INSPECTION BUREAU CORE

Seen from above, the M.I.B. occupies the central part of the concentric circles that shape Tiphares. Citizens are normally not permitted access to this fully automated zone, which houses the Initiation Room, M.I.B. machines, an automated brain bio-chip factory, the Mother Machine, the DNA organ, Waste Management, and the orbital elevator port.



TIPHAREAN CLASSIFICATION OF CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

• ERADICATION OF GENETICALLY PREDISPOSED CRIME

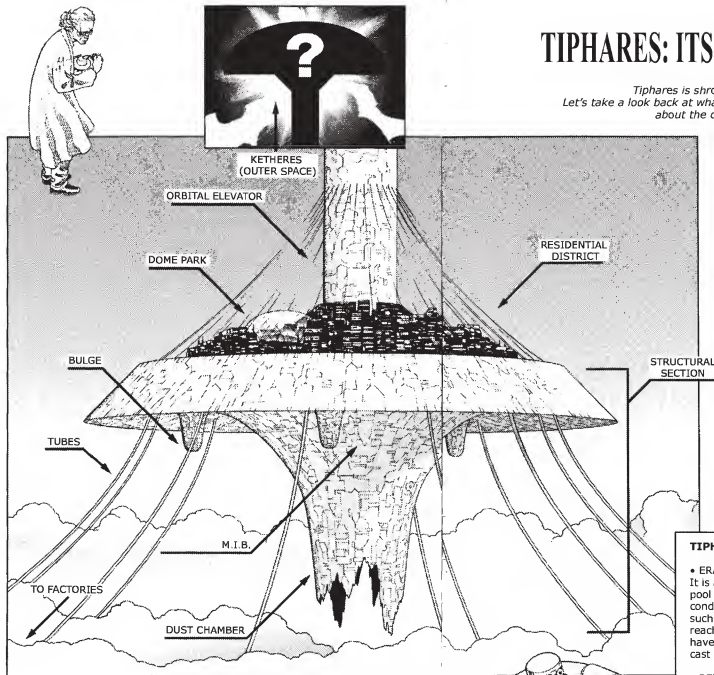
It is accepted that there are genes even in the Tipharean gene pool which predispose individuals to criminal behavior under certain conditions. The actions and psychological profiles of citizens with such genes are closely monitored. If their psychological status curve reaches criminal threshold, they are taken into custody, even if they have yet to commit an actual crime. Like Doc Dido, they are usually cast out alive from the Dust Chamber beneath Tiphares.

• REHABILITATION OF BEHAVIORAL CRIME

If a crime is deemed both harmless to the functioning of society and not to have arisen from criminal genes, the perpetrators are returned to society after their brain bio-chips have been recalibrated. The memory of the crime is erased, and their personality may change in some cases.

• RESEARCH INTO IDEOLOGICAL CRIME

Some people, even without genetically predisposed tendencies to crime, end up harboring ideologies that are thought to endanger society. The brain bio-chips of such criminals are removed and dismantled, and the thought processes that resulted in the crime are examined. The body, considered genetically harmless, is returned to the DNA bank of amino-acid soup.



• DOME PARK

The largest park in Tiphares houses Endjoy, the public suicide booth Alita destroyed in *Battle Angel Alita Vol. 9: Angel's Ascension*. Jim Roscoe used it as a base camp for the children.

• BULGE

Three protrusions from the lower part of Tiphares contain giant Tesla coils, which use electromagnetic waves to control the weather surrounding Tiphares. These coils also create the super-defensive weapon Abaddon by manipulating scalar waves to strike distant targets with tremendous (and unstoppable) energy. (See *Battle Angel Alita Vol. 8: Fallen Angel*.) The G.I.B. control room where Lou worked was housed in one of the bulges. Nova converted it into his secret laboratory.

• TUBES

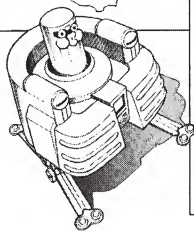
Transport tubes connect the surface factories and Tiphares. Eleven years ago, the twelfth was destroyed in an accident over a century ago.

• DUST CHAMBER

Garbage generated in Tiphares—including inhabitants convicted of genetically predisposed crimes—is expelled here. With strength, willpower, a tenacious spirit, and a lot of luck, such outcasts can crash-land relatively intact in the Scrapyard along with the trash. Several, like Ido, have survived their expulsion.

• THE ORBITAL ELEVATOR

"Jacob's Ladder" extends beyond the atmosphere. It supports Tiphares by perfectly balancing the gravitational pull on the city with centrifugal force. Most of its mass is composed of monomolecular wires made from carbon nanotubes. The temperature difference between outer space and the atmosphere is also used to generate electricity—enough to power both Tiphares and the Factories. The Orbital Elevator is capable of shipping several hundred tons of cargo per day, but now only transports Tipharean brains harvested in the Initiation Ceremony.

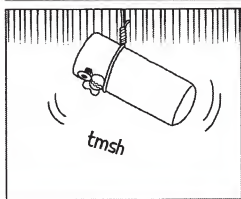
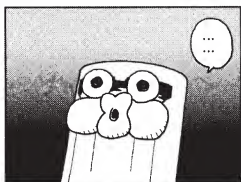
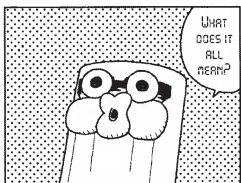
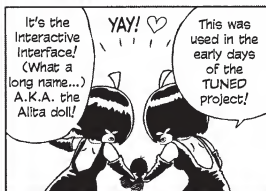
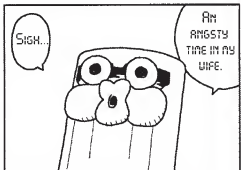
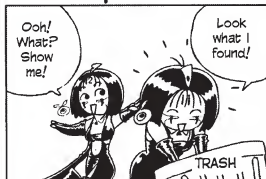


2001. 11. 21. YukiTo.

I saw those dolls that dance when you get mail...

I should've patented the idea!

CATECHISM OF LIFE



ALITA
Last Order





ALL NEW
MANGA

Best Order

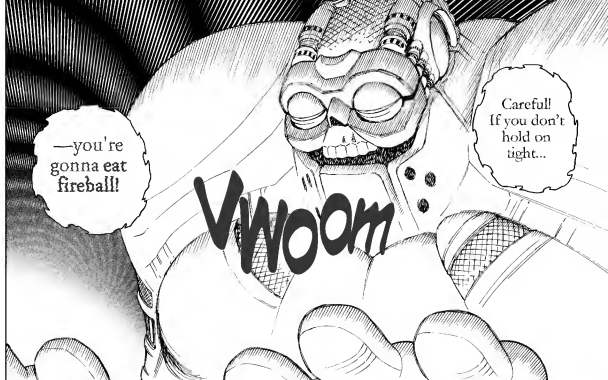
PHASE 10

**A Song From
Long Ago**





Woommssh



—you're gonna eat fireball!

Careful!
If you don't hold on tight...

Vwoom



tesh



skresh



YOU SEEM
QUITE...
ELATED,
PROFES-
SOR.

ERR...
WELL...
I AM
FEELING
RATHER
AMBIVALENT*
AT THE
MOMENT.



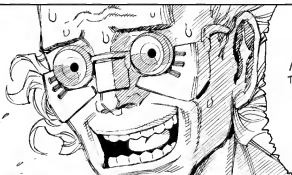
AND ONCE
THIS
BECOMES
A **POWER**
GAME,
ALITA
HASN'T A
CHANCE!

HE'S
TEN
TIMES
MORE
POWER-
FUL
THAN
ALITA!

***Ambivalence:** Simultaneous and contradictory feelings toward the same object that can lead to psychological "splitting," in which a subject separates irreconcilable parts of his/her personality. A concept used by the Swiss psychiatrist Paul Eugen Bleuler (1857-1939).



...YET I'M
OVERJOYED
THAT MY
ACKNOWLEDGED
SUCCESSOR,
MR. ROSCOE,
WILL HAVE HIS
GREAT TALENTS
PROVEN AT
LAST!

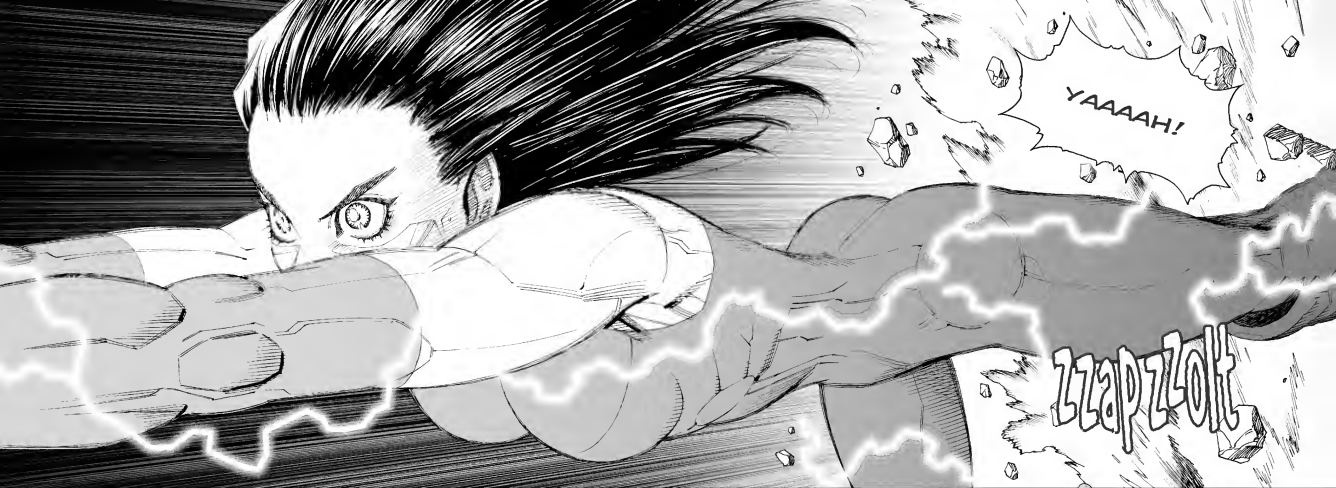


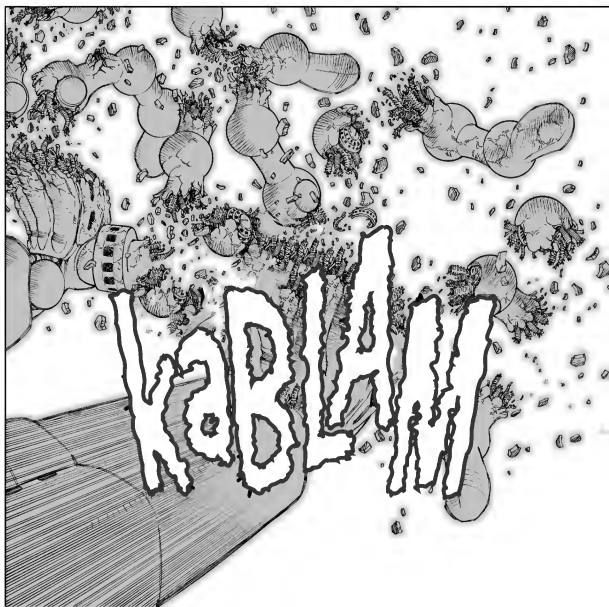
I AM
SADDENED
THAT MY
MASTERPIECE,
THE IMAGINOS
BODY, AND
ALITA, THE
KARMA
WARRIOR,
WILL BE
DEFEATED...

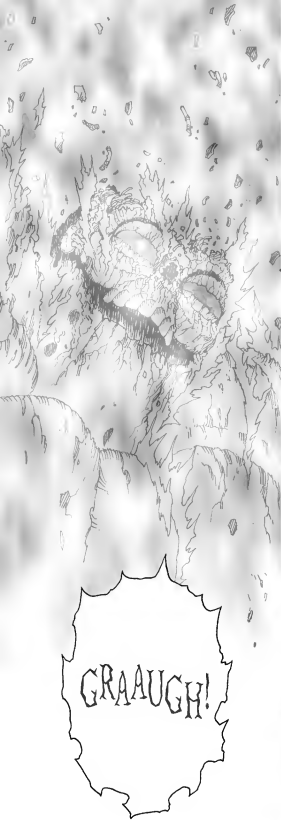


WAIT!

ALITA'S
STILL GOT
A TRICK
UP HER
SLEEVE!

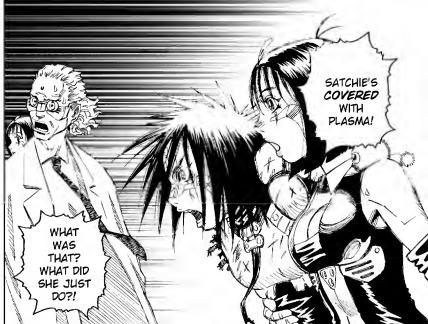








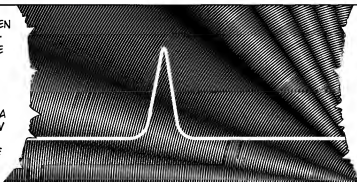
O-OF COURSE!
A STROKE
OF
GENIUS!



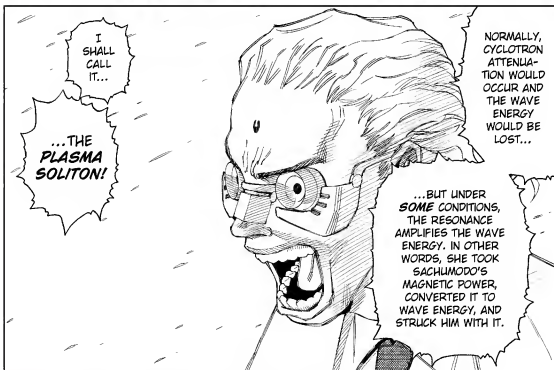
SATCHIE'S
COVERED
WITH
PLASMA!

WHAT
WAS
THAT?
WHAT
DID
SHE
JUST
DO?!

...THAT THEY OFTEN
BECOME A HIGH-
AMPLITUDE WAVE
CALLED A
SOLITON! *
ALITA USED THE
PLASMA AS A
MEDIUM TO FIRE A
HERTZA HAEON
MADE OF A
**PLASMA-WAVE
SOLITON.**



WAVE MOTION
SUCH AS ION
ACOUSTIC
WAVES AND
MAGNETIC
ACOUSTIC
WAVES MAY
ARISE IN
PLASMA.
IT'S A WELL-
KNOWN
PHENOMENON...



I
SHALL
CALL
IT...

...THE
**PLASMA
SOLITON!**

NORMALLY,
CYCLOTRON
ATTENUATION
WOULD
OCCUR AND
THE WAVE
ENERGY
WOULD BE
LOST...

...BUT UNDER
SOME CONDITIONS,
THE RESONANCE
AMPLIFIES THE WAVE
ENERGY. IN OTHER
WORDS, SHE TOOK
SACHUMODO'S
MAGNETIC POWER,
CONVERTED IT TO
WAVE ENERGY, AND
STRUCK HIM WITH IT.

***Soliton**: An isolated wave. A pulse wave that spreads without losing energy and maintains its shape even after colliding. A tsunami is a type of soliton.



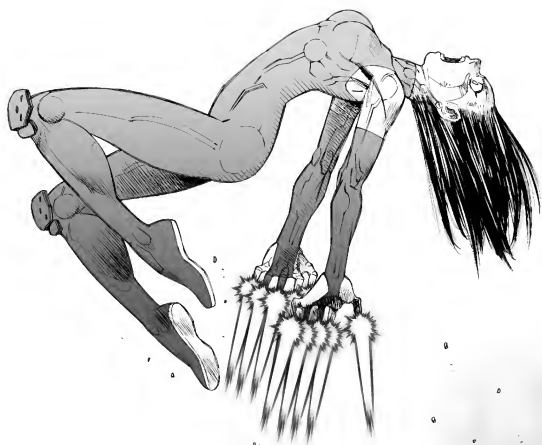
ALITA IS
TRULY A
MIGHTY
WARRIOR!

ALITA'S
INTELLECTUAL
UNDERSTANDING OF
PLASMA PHYSICS IS
DUBIOUS AT BEST,
BUT HER EXPERIENCE
MANIPULATING
PLASMA GAVE HER
AN INTUITIVE
UNDERSTANDING!



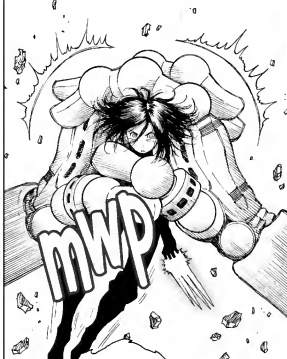
YOU
CAN'T TELL
WHICH OF
HER ACTIONS
ARE
CALCULATED
AND WHICH
ARE
INSTINCTUAL—

THAT'S
WHAT
MAKES
HER SUCH A
TERRIFYING
WARRIOR!



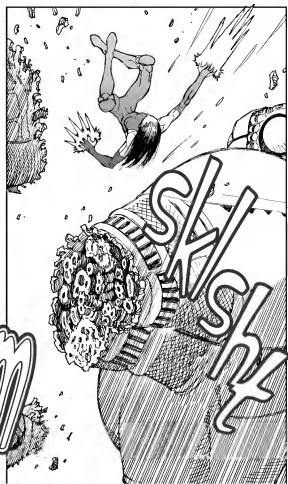
YAH!





Th-
that
hurt
me!







**THIS FERAL
FIGHTING SPIRIT
IS HER TRUE
NATURE, THE
ROOT OF ALITA'S
STRENGTH.**

I THOUGHT
SHE WAS
A COOL-
HEADED,
TECHNICAL
FIGHTER...

IT'S
NOT
TECH-
NIQUE.

HER ONLY
THOUGHT
NOW IS TO
ATTACK UNTIL
SHE KILLS
...

SCARY.
LIKE A
WILD
BEAST.





GIVE US A
GOOD
"KYAHHAH!"

KYA...
KYA...
HA, HA,
HA, HA,
HA!



WHY
THE
LONG
FACE?

IT'S NOT
LIKE YOU!
C'MON!
LAUGH, LIKE
YOU ALWAYS
DO!



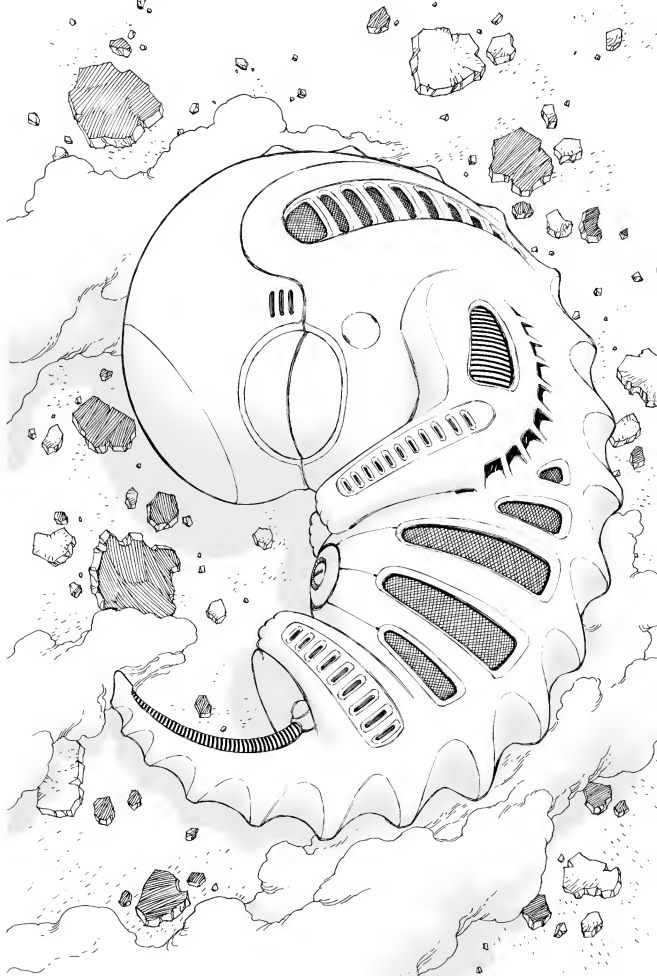
POOR
MR.
ROSCOE
...



YOU BETTER
GIVE UP ON THE
MONSTER'S BRAIN
BIO-CHIP.
PROFESSOR!
NOBODY COULD
STOP HER NOW...







...can't
remember...

anything...
so sleepy...

i...i can't...



...and i can hear something...

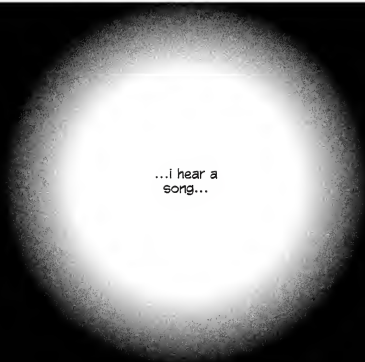
...a song...

...from long
ago...

...it's a *song*...



...i hear a
song...



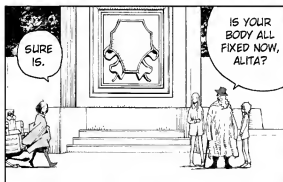
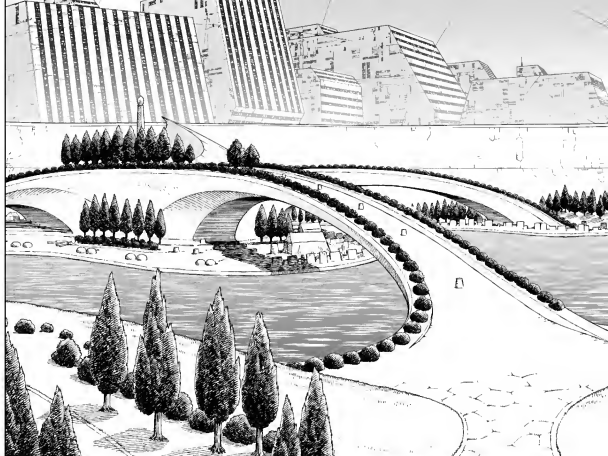
A black and white photograph of a galaxy, likely the Andromeda Galaxy, viewed from an edge-on perspective. The galaxy's bright central core and spiral arms are visible, surrounded by a dense field of stars. The image has a grainy, high-contrast appearance.

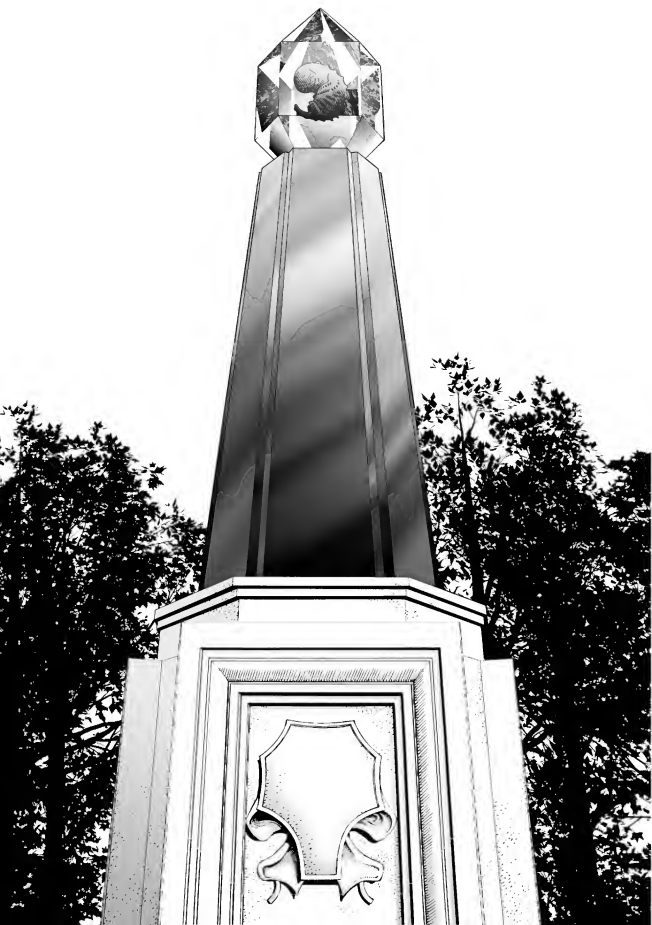
*...I
can go
back
to it...*

*...maybe
now...*

ONE WEEK LATER...

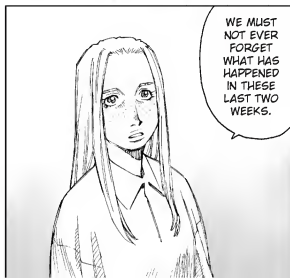
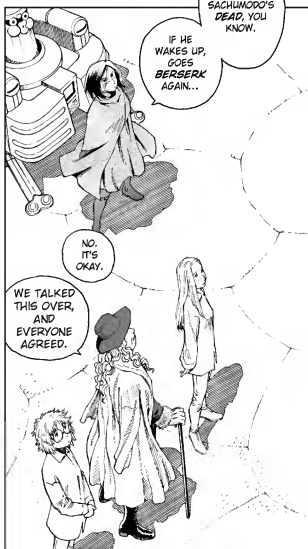
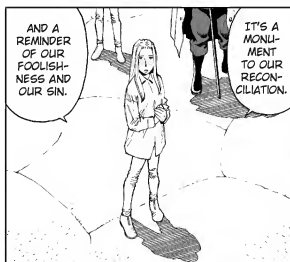


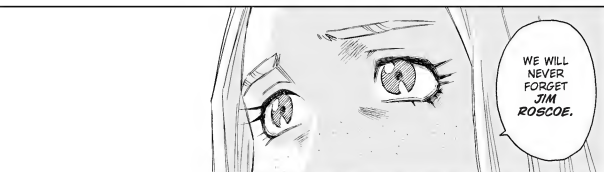
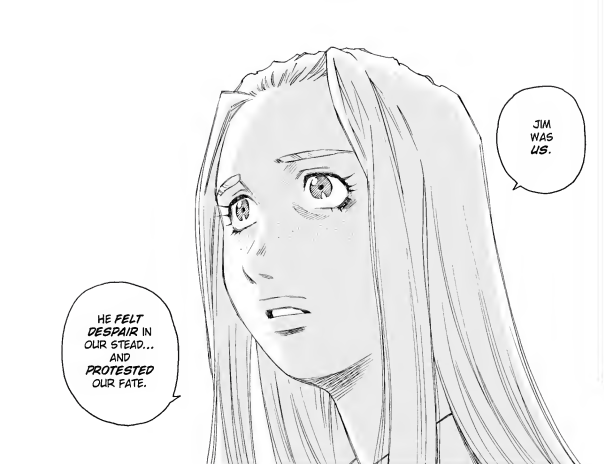






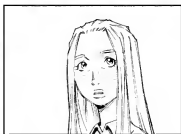
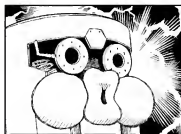
IT'S
NOT LIKE
SACHUMODO'S
DEAD, YOU
KNOW.







THERE
ARE MANY
MYSTERIES
IN BEING
ALIVE.



AND
FROM BIRTH,
EVERYONE
CARRIES THOSE
MYSTERIES DEEP
INSIDE.

...AND DIE
CONFUSED,
STILL CAR-
RYING THEM.

...WHILE
SOME
CONFRONT
THEM
HEAD-
ON...

SOME
NEVER
NOTICE THE
MYSTERIES.



BUT TO
THOSE
WHO TAKE
ACTION,
THEY ARE A
BLESSING.



TO THOSE
WHO SEEK
ANSWERS,
THESE
MYSTERIES
ARE A CURSE.

...FOR NO
MATTER HOW
MUCH POWER
OR INFLUENCE
SOMEONE
HAS, THESE
MYSTERIES
CANNOT BE
CONQUERED!





JUVENILE



CHILD



EMBRYO

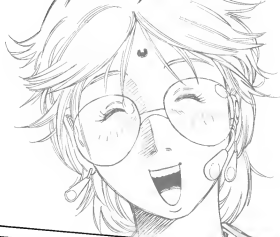


PHASE 11

Even So...

GOOD
MORNING,
ALITA.





TIME
FOR
BREAKFAST,
ALITA!

MMPH...
G'MORNING,
LOU.



HUH...?!



MOM AND
THE OTH-
ERS ARE
IN THE
BACK.



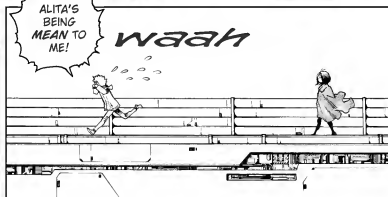
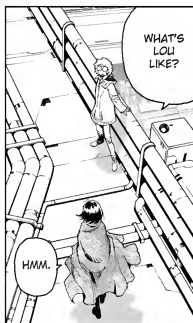
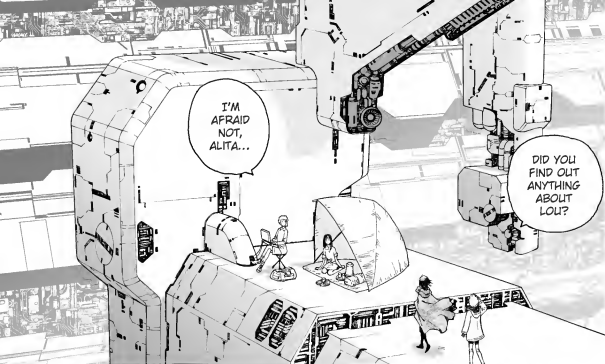
OH, RIGHT!
I'M IN
TIPHARES...
THE M.I.B.
CORE.
WHERE'S
MARGE?

YOU'RE
STILL
HALF
ASLEEP...



WHAT
THE...!
OH, PAM—
IT'S
YOU...



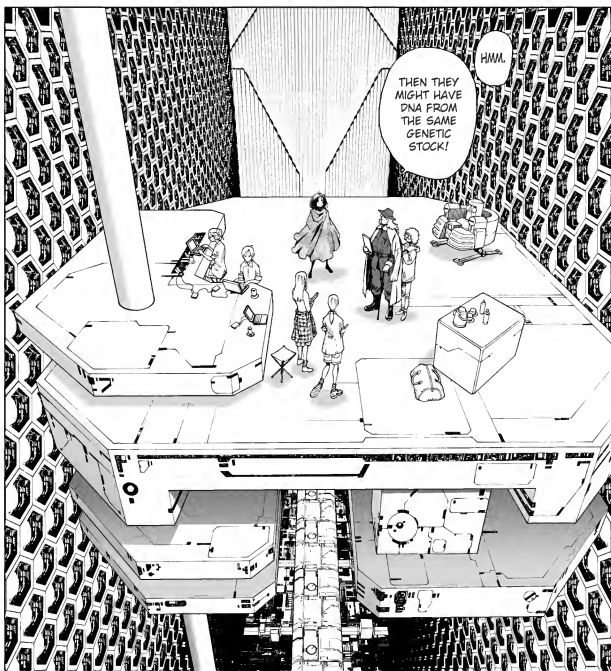


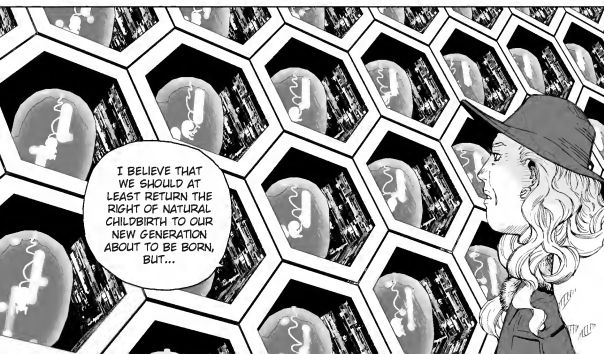
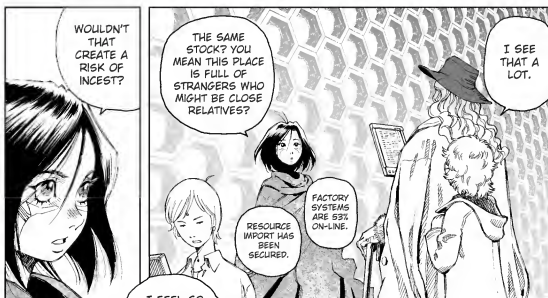
YOU SAY
PAM
LOOKS
LIKE LOU?

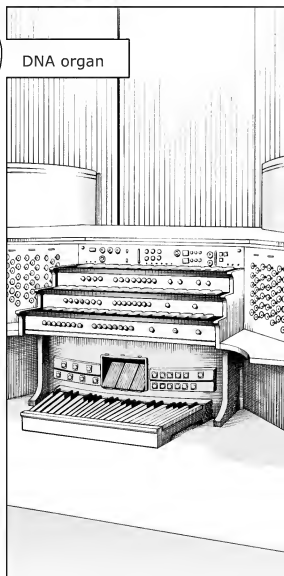
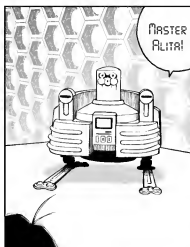
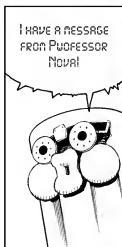
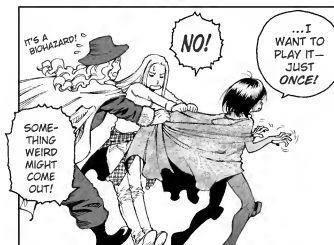
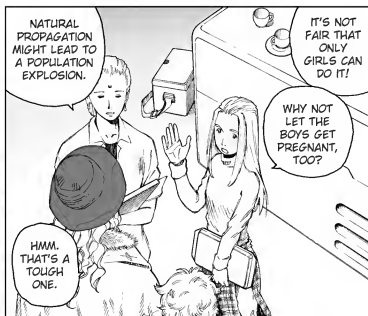


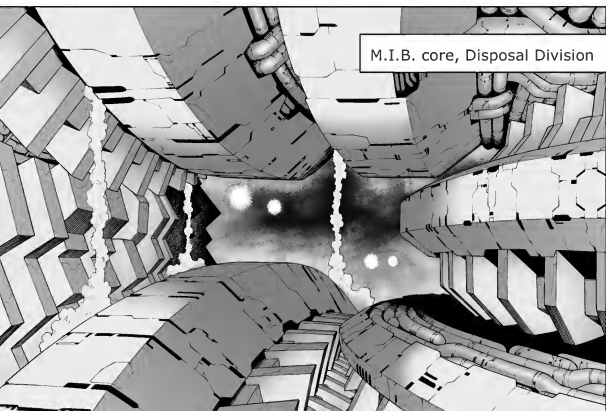
HMM.

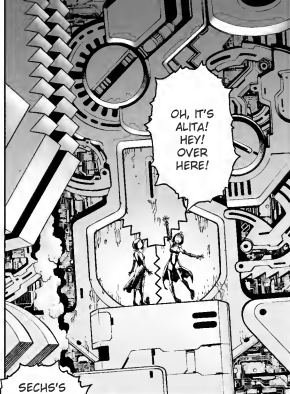
THEN THEY
MIGHT HAVE
DNA FROM
THE SAME
GENETIC
STOCK!











OH, IT'S
ALITA!
HEY!
OVER
HERE!

SECHS'S
BODY WAS
REPAIRED!

♥
LOOK!

DON'T
ACT ALL
CHUMMY.

IT WAS
NOT!



SECHS
...?



WHAT A
GLOOMY
PLACE
THIS IS...



Y-YOU
GOT A
PROBLEM?!



IN
THE
TRASH
...

KILL!

WE JUST
SNAPPED
IN SECHS'S
BRAIN CHIP.

IS IT AN
INTER-
ACTIVE
INTER-
FACE?
WHERE'D
YOU FIND
IT?

H-HEY!
YOU
BETTER
NOT BE
LAUGHING
AT ME!



PTR!



Wsh



WHERE
IS
LOU?



BUT
IT'S SO
TOP-
HEAVY!

PRETTY
GULL-
IBLE...

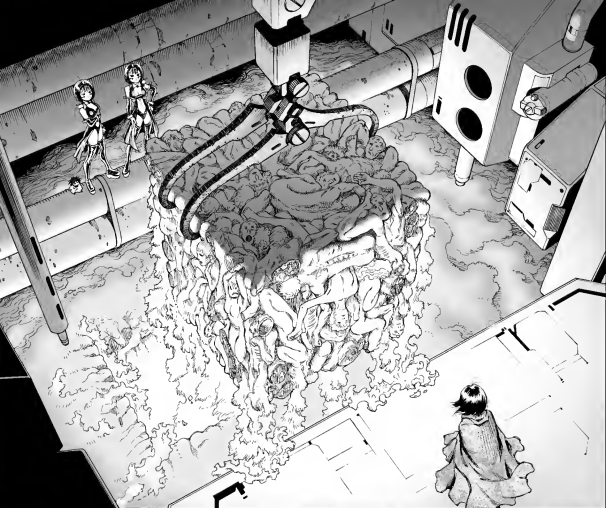


WHAT?
REALLY
?!

I WAS
IN THAT
BODY
ONCE...

IT'S GOOD
TRAINING FOR
FIGHTING
GIANTS LIKE
DEN!





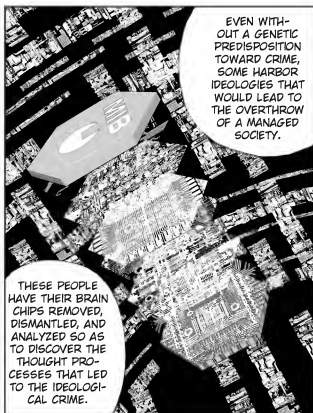
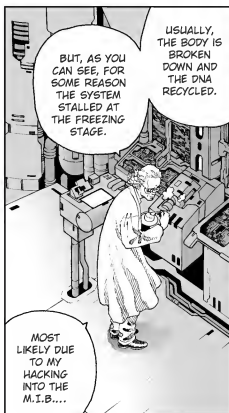
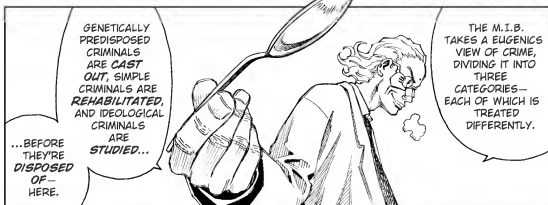
BUT I CAME
ACROSS THIS
AS I WAS
EXAMINING THE
BRAIN BIO-CHIP
PRODUCTION
LINE.

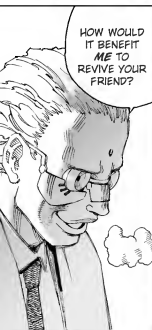
I WASN'T
LOOKING
FOR YOUR
FRIEND,
MIND
YOU.

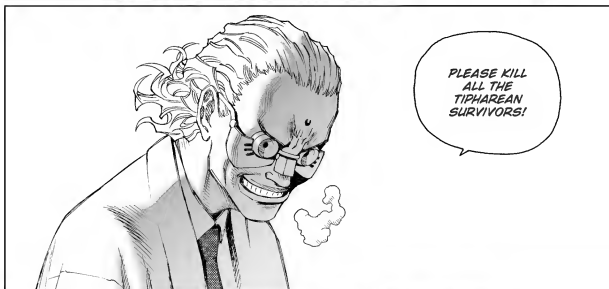
HER BRAIN
BIO-CHIP
WASN'T
LEFT
INSIDE.

AND THAT
FROZEN
MEAT'S
AN EMPTY
SHELL, BY
THE WAY.

L—
LOU...!









DO
YOU
VOW...

...TO
BRING
BACK
LOU...?!



A
TRUE
PAL!
♥

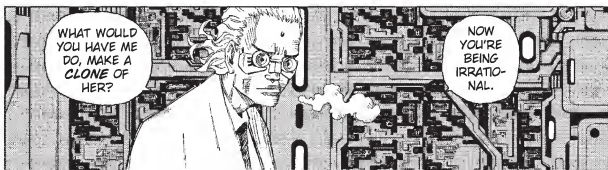
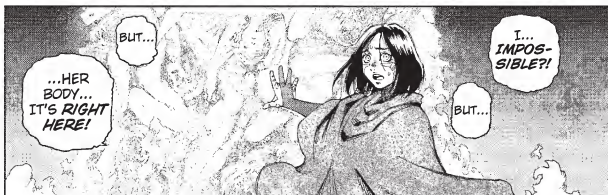
SHE'LL
DO
IT?!



HEH,
HEH!
THIS'LL
BE
FUN!



M-MASTER
RWITA...



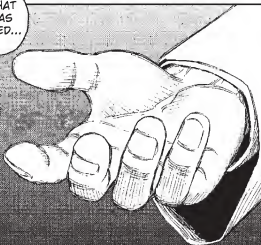


HOW DO YOU DEFINE "HUMAN?"



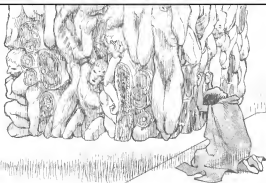
ONCE THAT DATA HAS DISSIPATED...

IT'S PROPER TO DEFINE THAT AS "DEATH."

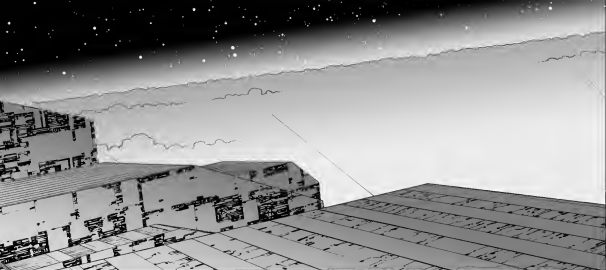


IF IT IS POSSIBLE FOR A BODY OR BRAIN TO BE REPLACED BY A MACHINE...

THEN WHAT MAKES A HUMAN HUMAN IS THE INFORMATION IN HER PERSONALITY AND MEMORIES.



DEATH...!





THE
"STRONGEST
ON EARTH"?
HA!

A
"WARRIOR"?
HA!



I'M STILL
POWERLESS!

I HAVEN'T
CHANGED
ONE BIT
FROM THE
DAY I LOST
HUGO...

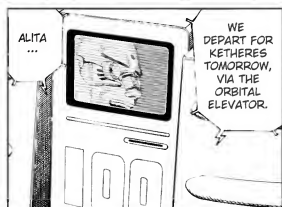


I'M THE
LOWEST OF
THE LOW...!



AND IN A
MOMENT OF
DESPERATION,
I WAS ABOUT TO
MAKE A DEVIL'S
PACT WITH
NOVA...

HOW
CAN I EVER
FACE NOLA
AND THE
OTHERS?!

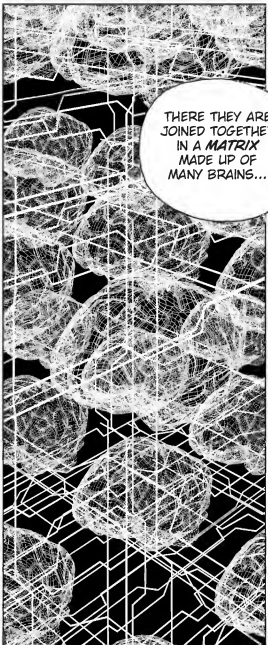


THE
"INITIATION"
THAT ALL
TIPHAREANS
UNDERGO
AT AGE
NINETEEN...



... AND
WHAT I
LEARNED
IS RATHER...
**EXTRA-
ORDINARY!**

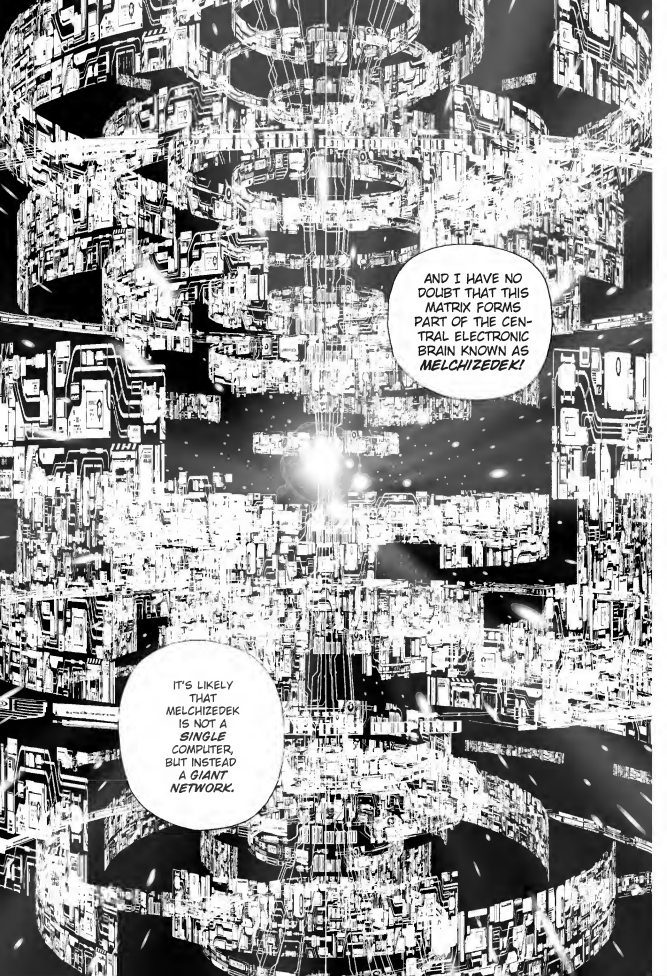
THIS PAST
YEAR I'VE
DONE ALL THE
RESEARCH
I CAN INTO
TIPHARES AND
KETHERES...



THERE THEY ARE
JOINED TOGETHER
IN A **MATRIX**
MADE UP OF
MANY BRAINS...

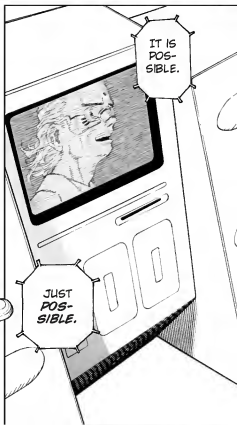
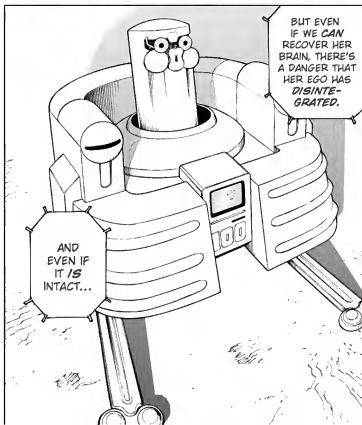
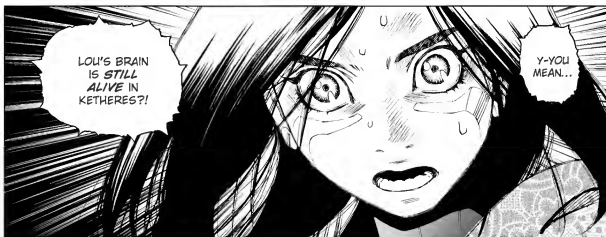
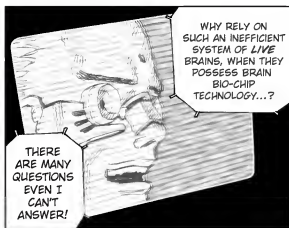
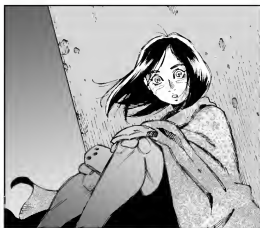


THE BRAINS
REMOVED DURING
THE GRAND INITIATION
RITUAL ARE PROMPTLY
WHISKED AWAY—
STILL ALIVE!—
TO KETHERES ON
THE ORBITAL
ELEVATOR.



AND I HAVE NO
DOUBT THAT THIS
MATRIX FORMS
PART OF THE CEN-
TRAL ELECTRONIC
BRAIN KNOWN AS
MELCHIZEDEK!

IT'S LIKELY
THAT
MELCHIZEDEK
IS NOT A
SINGLE
COMPUTER,
BUT INSTEAD
A GIANT
NETWORK.





...SHE'LL
BE THE
LOU SHE
WAS AT
NINETEEN.

SHE'LL
KNOW NOTHING
OF WHAT
HAPPENED
IN THE G.I.B...
NOTHING
ABOUT YOU.



**EVEN
SO...!**

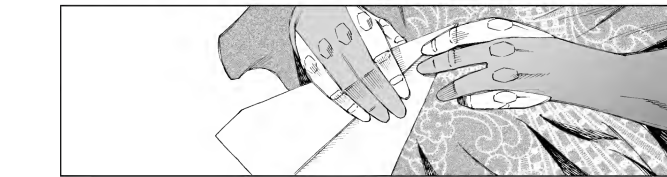


shao



I'M
GOING ON
A JOURNEY
FOR A
WHILE.

I'M
SORRY,
FIGURE.



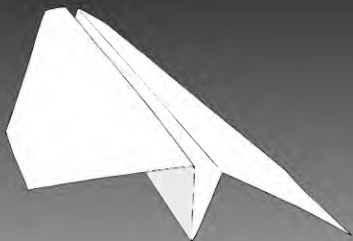
...THE TIME WILL
COME WHEN
TIPHARES WILL
NEED YOUR
STRENGTH.

KAOS...
ONE
DAY...



...FOR I...

IT'S IN
YOUR
HANDS...

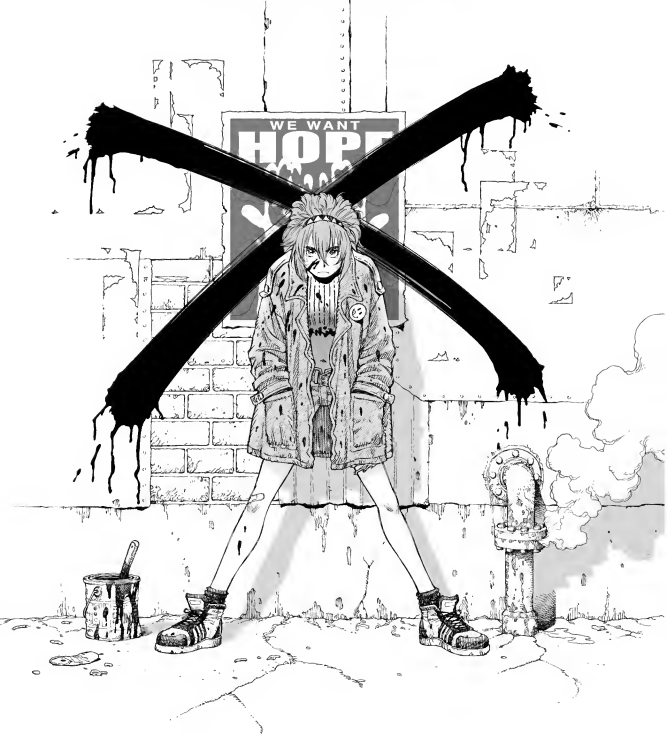


*...AM
GOING TO
SPACE!*

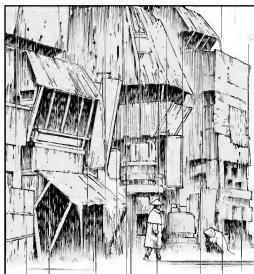


PHASE 12

How Grave a Sin It Is to Dream



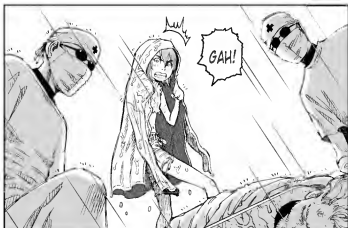
The Scrapyard, Southern District



Koyomi (14 years old)











POPS—
GIMME
A
TOWEL!

Wabi-Sabi Antiques
A Vector franchise where Koyomi
and her father are boarding.

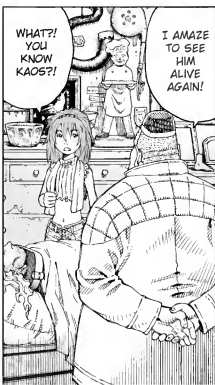


SORRY.
HE WON'T
CAUSE
YOU ANY
TROUBLE...

AIYA!
MY SHOP
NO DEAL
PEOPLE.



SHORTLY
AFTER
MESS
WITH
BARJACK
...

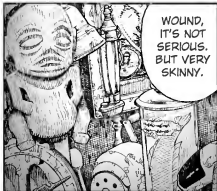


WHAT?!
YOU
KNOW
KAOS?!

I AMAZE
TO SEE
HIM
ALIVE
AGAIN!



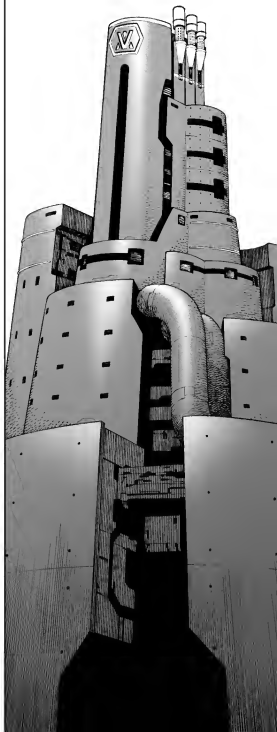
HMM...
THIS
MAN...!



WOUND,
IT'S NOT
SERIOUS.
BUT VERY
SKINNY.



*I HAPPEN IN
MR. VECTOR'S
BUILDING
THAT DAY.*





HE GOT PLAN
TO MAKE TOWER
2.5 KM HIGH WITH
DISCARD MATERIALS
TO CONNECT TIPHARES
WITH SURFACE...
WE ALL THOUGHT HE
CRAZY.



BUT IF THAT
IS EVER TO
HAPPEN, THE
SCRAPYARD
MUST FIRST
UNITE, UNDER
ONE CAUSE.
WILL YOU
HELP ME?

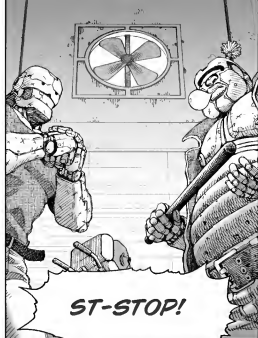
TIPHARES
AND THE
SURFACE
MUST
LEARN TO
CO-EXIST!



BUT
THIS
PART...

THERE'S
NO LAW
ON HOW
HIGH WE
CAN
BUILD.

A FOOL'S
ERRAND,
BUT WELL
THOUGHT
OUT.





I WAS SURROUNDED BY HOODLUMS, CON MEN AND PSYCHO BASTARDS, BUT I SURVIVED AND GRADUALLY BUILT UP A REPUTATION.

I WAS BORN IN A POOR VILLAGE ON THE OUTSKIRTS... I CAME TO THIS TOWN WHEN I WAS NINE. FORTY YEARS AGO.

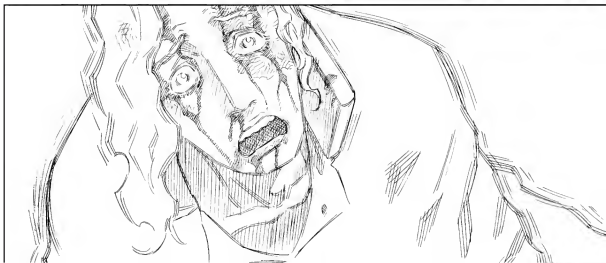
ALL THANKS TO A CERTAIN TALENT I HAVE...

EVEN IF HE'S A CYBORG!

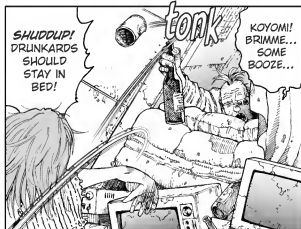
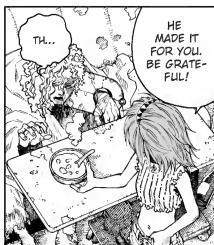
I CAN SEE IN AN INSTANT IF SOMEONE IS LYING— SEE IT IN HIS EYES.



...AND LOOKING INTO YOUR EYES, I CAN SEE THAT THEY...









HMPH!
SO YA
FINALLY
NOTICED!

KOYOMI
?!

KOY...

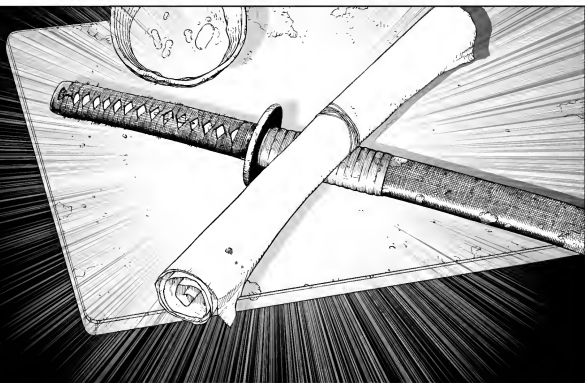


HERE—ANOTHER
GIFT FROM THE
SHOPKEEPER.
YOU OWE HIM
ONE!



I WAS
S'POSED TO BE
SOLD OFF TO
PAY FOR DAD'S
OPERATION,
BUT MR.
VECTOR...

BUT I DON'T
NEED TO
EXPLAIN.
YOU'VE GOT
YOUR
PSYCHO-
METRY.





UH...

Ah...
ah...



tsh

IN THE END,
THEY MADE
THEIR WAY FROM
MR. VECTOR'S
PLACE TO
HERE.

THE
SHOP-
KEEP'S
GIVING YOU
A SPECIAL
DEAL...
THEY'RE
FREE!



YOUR
SWORD,
AND...

...YOUR
PLANS.



...WAAH!

Waa...

Waa...



WAAH!



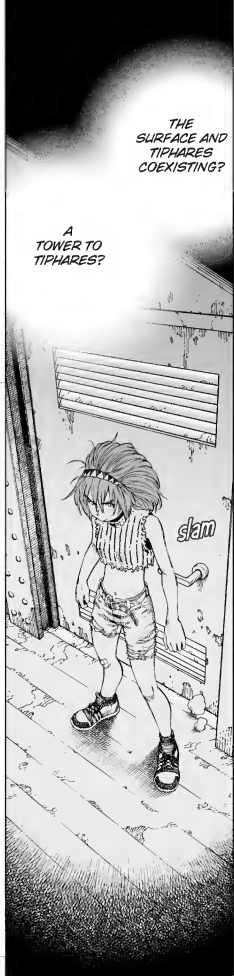
IT'S ALL
TALK...
HE'S ALL
TALK...

HE
ALWAYS
HAS
BEEN.



SO
WHY...

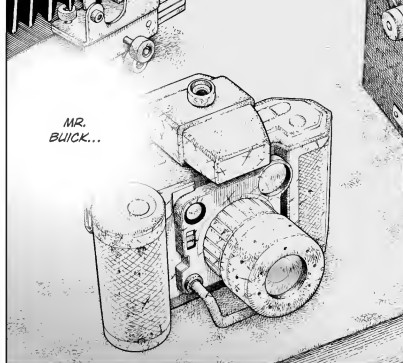
...WHY
DOES MY
HEART...
ACHE?



THE
SURFACE AND
TIPHARES
COEXISTING?

A
TOWER TO
TIPHARES?

slam



MR.
BUICK...



THE
BARJACK
GUYS...

FURY...



I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT'S
RIGHT
ANYMORE...



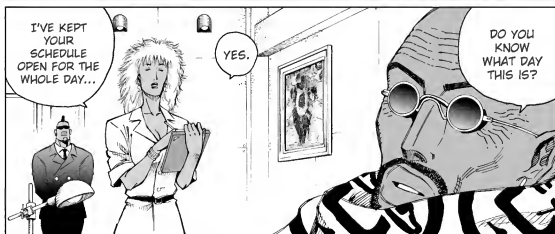
MASTER
DEN...!

I CAN'T
BELIEVE IN
ANYTHING
ANYMORE!





IT'S RARE
FOR THE
RAIN TO
LET UP
LIKE THIS.



I'VE KEPT
YOUR
SCHEDULE
OPEN FOR THE
WHOLE DAY...

YES.

DO YOU
KNOW
WHAT DAY
THIS IS?



CALL
THE
BODY-
GUARD,
TOO.

AS
YOU
WISH.



I JUST
STAY
ON MY
GUARD...

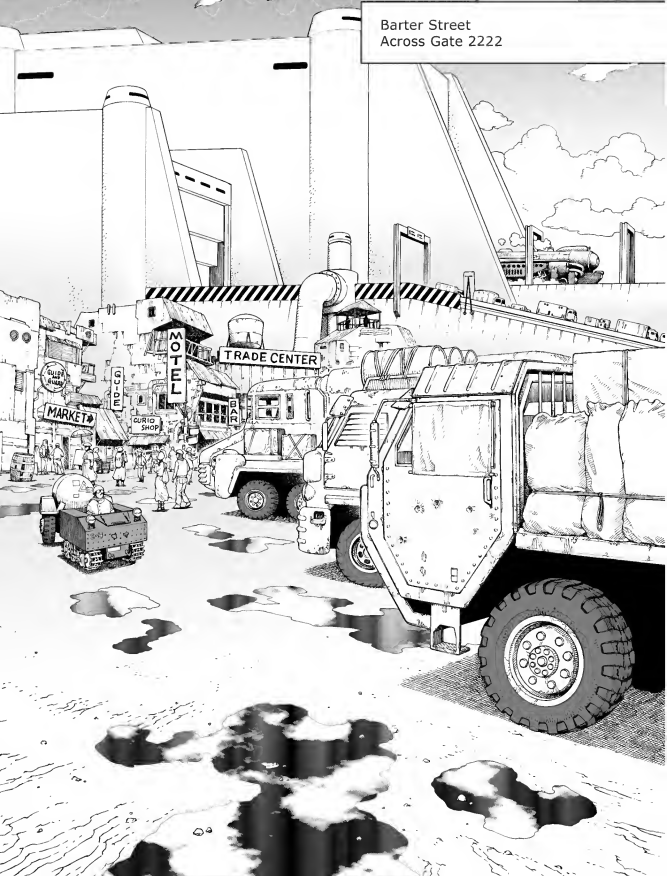
EXPECT?
HEH
HEH...

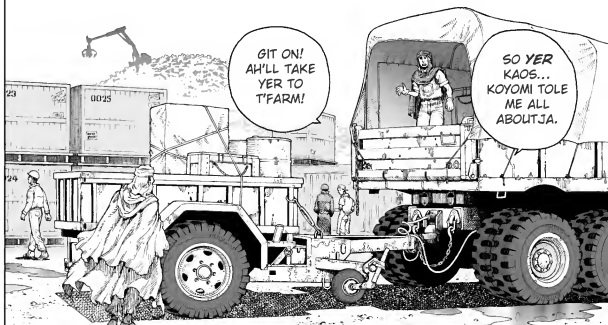


BUT
WHAT DO
YOU EXPECT
FROM THAT
YOUNG
MAN?

DO YOU
REALLY
IMAGINE
HE'LL
SHOW UP?

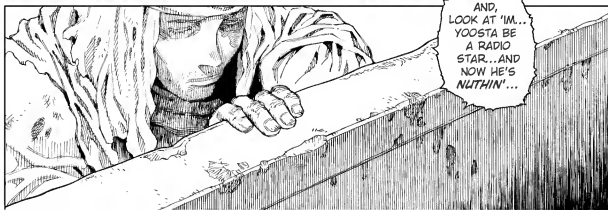
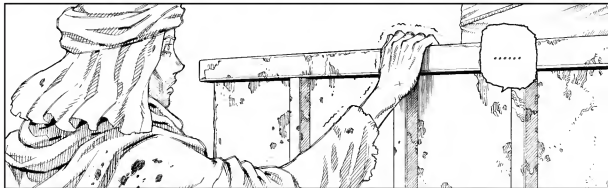
Barter Street
Across Gate 2222





GIT ON!
AH'LL TAKE
YER TO
T'FARM!

SO YER
KAOS...
KOYOMI TOLE
ME ALL
ABOUTJA.





HOW
SHOULD
AH KNOW?
HE WANDERED
OFF LIKE
HE WAS
SLEEP-
WALKIN'...

HE DIDN'T
GET ON?!
WHY
NOT?!

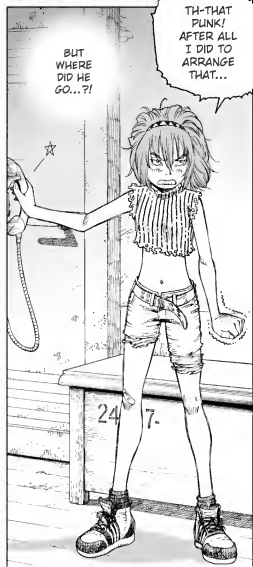
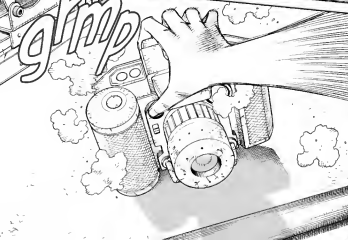


HEY...
WAIT!
WHERE
YA
GOIN'?



H-HE
WOULDN'T
...

NO
WAY!
B-
BUT...



TH-THAT
PUNK!
AFTER ALL
I DID TO
ARRANGE
THAT...

BUT
WHERE
DID HE
GO...?!

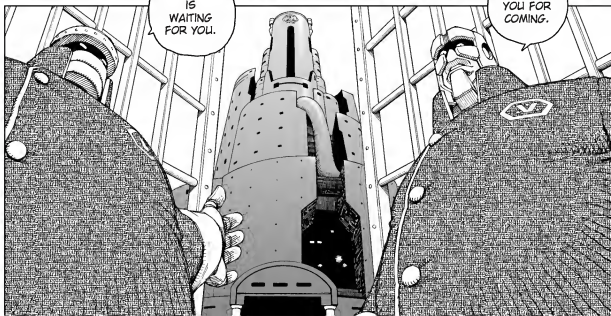
...I'VE COME TO
UNDERSTAND!

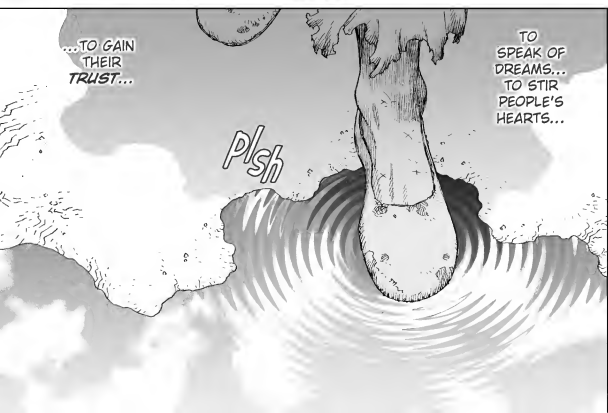
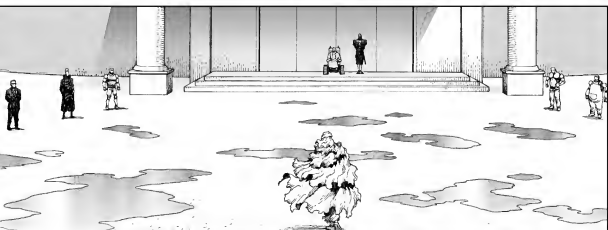
AT LONG
LAST...



THE BOSS
IS
WAITING
FOR YOU.

THANK
YOU FOR
COMING.





IT'S A
SIN...

...AND THEN
LET THEM
DOWN!



.....

MASTER
PIZMO—
WHAT DO
YOU
THINK?



HOW
GRAVE
A SIN
IT IS TO
DREAM!!

AT LAST
I UNDER-
STAND...





...ALREADY
DEAD!

I
SENSE
HE IS...



WHAT DO
YOU HAVE
LEFT TO
SAY FOR
YOURSELF
?!



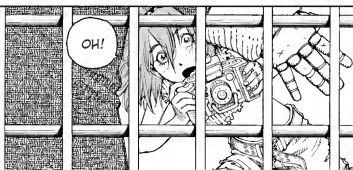
HMPH!
WHAT A
LET-
DOWN...

HE
PLANS
TO DIE?
FOR HIS
DREAM
?!

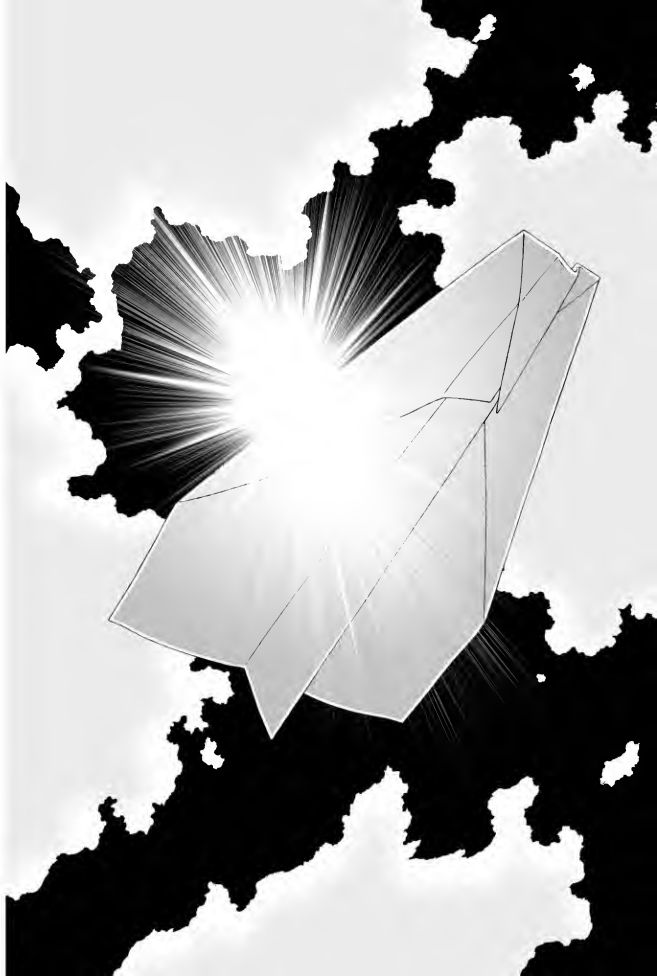


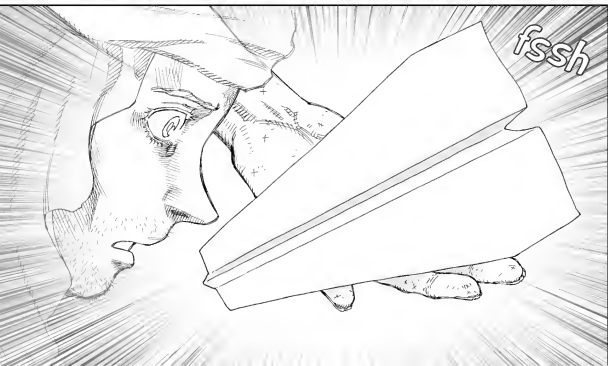
IT'S TOO
LATE TO
BEG FOR
YOUR LIFE!

YOU THINK
YOU'RE SO
COOL,
SHOWING
YOUR FACE
HERE?

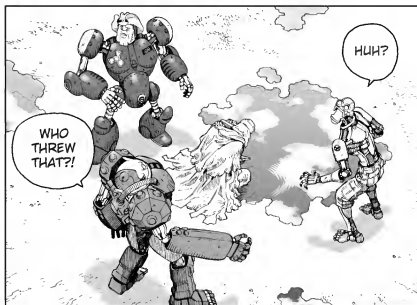


OH!











krash

I-I
CAN'T
MOVE IT!

GET
OFFA
ME!

HUH
?!

ZZAP
ZZOT

WHY,
YOU...!

M-MY
BODY
?!

FUJIDAL
SWORD
ART...

Pyu~n

HANAO-
GIRI!*

HEY!
NO
PHOTOS!

HE
DREW
THE
SWORD!

KACHIK

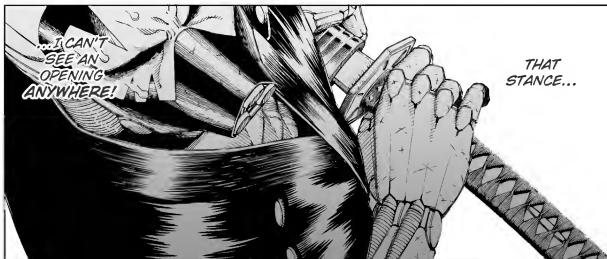
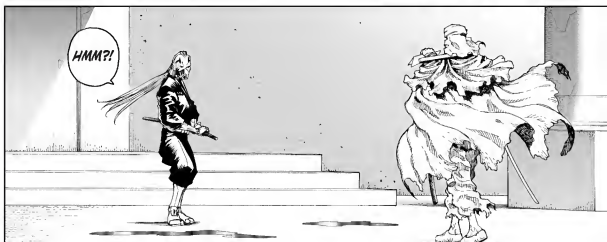
HMM... HE SEVERED
THE POWER LINES
AND NEURAL
CIRCUITS OF ALL
THREE OF THEIR
BODIES,
RENDERING THEM
IMMOBILE!

SUCH
KEEN
SKILL....!

*Hanao-giri: Sandal strap slash.



...BUT ONLY CAPABLE OF DEFEATING A NOVICE.



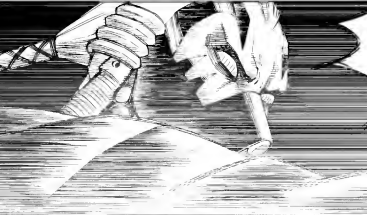


...WAS
CRAWL ON
MY BELLY
THROUGH
THE ALLEYS
LIKE A
SNAKE!

ALL I DID
FOR AN
ENTIRE
YEAR..

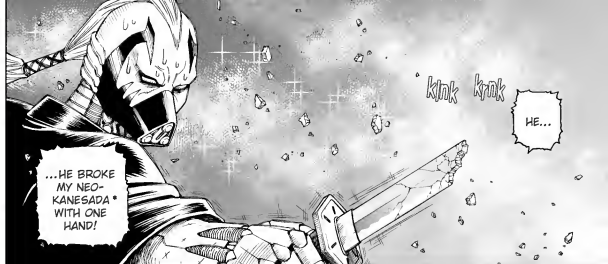


I HAVEN'T
STARTED
ANYTHING,
VECTOR.



Supersonic-

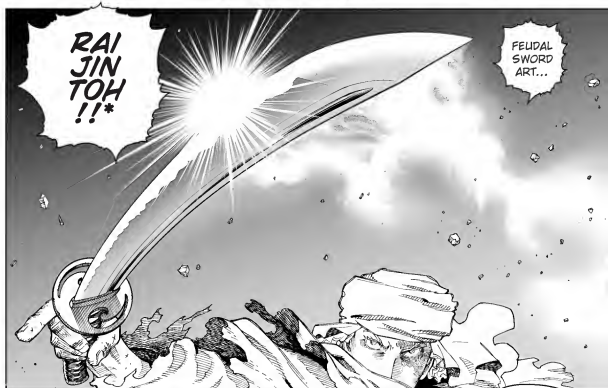




...HE BROKE
MY NEO-
KANESADA
WITH ONE
HAND!

kink kink

HE...

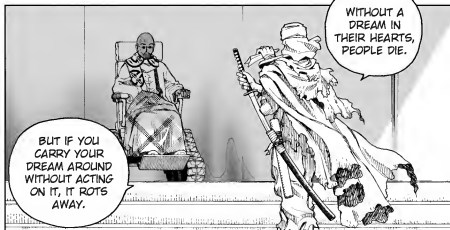


RAI
JIN
TOH
!!*

FEUDAL
SWORD
ART...



THE ONLY WAY
TO ATONE
FOR THE SIN
OF DREAMING
IS... TO MAKE
THAT DREAM
REALITY!



WITHOUT A
DREAM IN
THEIR HEARTS,
PEOPLE DIE.

BUT IF YOU
CARRY YOUR
DREAM AROUND
WITHOUT ACTING
ON IT, IT ROTS
AWAY.

***Neo-Kanesada:** A famous sword was forged by the swordsmith Kanesada Izuminokami of Mino in the later years of the Muromachi Era, later becoming a favorite of Toshizo Hijikata, vice captain of the Shinsengumi. This is not that sword.

***Raijintoh:** Dust thunder blade.

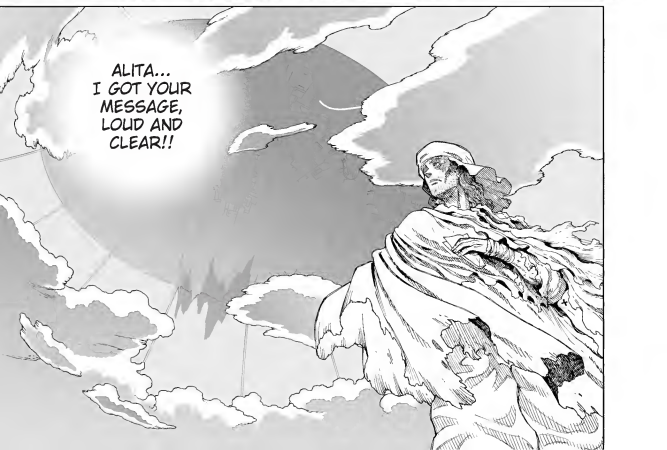
A close-up of a man with a large, balding head, a thick beard, and round sunglasses. He is looking slightly to the right with a slight smile. He is wearing a striped shirt.

STILL....

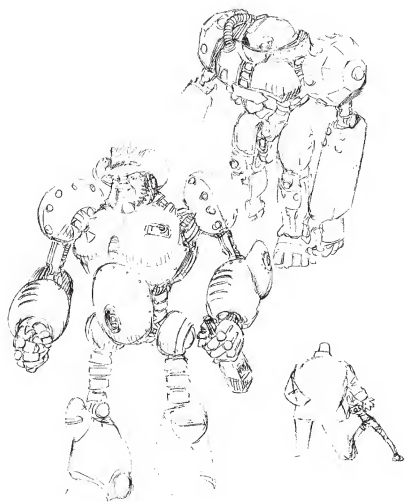
FEH...
I DON'T
BELIEVE IN
DREAMS.



I FEEL
LIKE IN-
VESTING
IN YOUR
CRAZY
SCHEME.

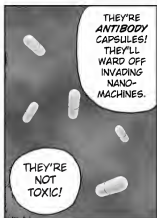
A man in a headscarf and a long, flowing robe is looking up at a large, bright sun in a cloudy sky. The sun is partially obscured by clouds, and the man's face is in shadow.

ALITA...
I GOT YOUR
MESSAGE,
LOUD AND
CLEAR!!





HERE,
TAKE
ONE OF
THESE.



THEY'RE
ANTIBODY
CAPSULES!
THEY'LL
WARD OFF
INVADING
NANO-
MACHINES.

THEY'RE
NOT
TOXIC!



BAH!

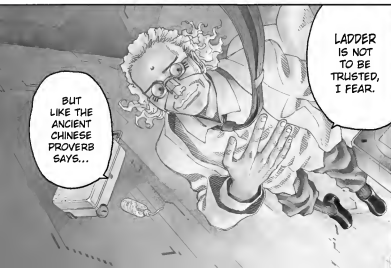
YOU
FIRST!

Y-YOU'RE
SO DIS-
TRUSTFUL...



SO THERE'S A
POSSIBILITY
KETHERES
MIGHT BE
HOSTILE?

EVEN IF IT IS...
WITH **OUR**
HEROIC LINEUP,
I DOUBT WE'LL
FACE ANY REAL
THREATS!



BUT
LIKE THE
ANCIENT
CHINESE
PROVERB
SAYS...

LADDER
IS NOT
TO BE
TRUSTED,
I FEAR.

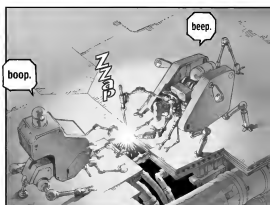


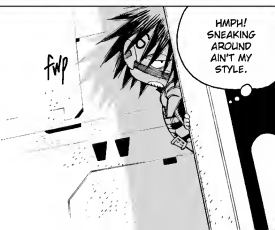
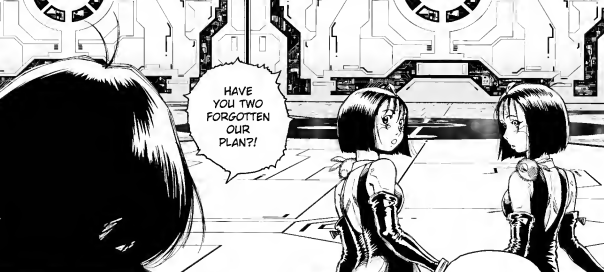
The Space City Ketheres

PHASE 13
The World's Zenith!

... "TO CATCH
A TIGER CUB,
ONE MUST
ENTER THE
TIGER'S LAIR."

*"Enter the tiger's lair." "Nothing ventured, nothing gained."
Attributed to Ban Chao (c. 32-102 A.D.), a Chinese general of the
Eastern Han dynasty, in Ho Hanshu (The History of the Later Han).*



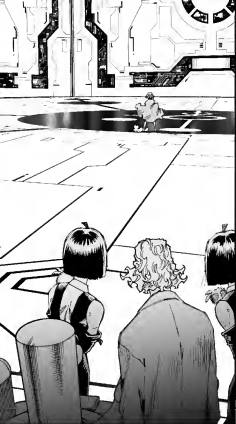




...AT THEIR
SHARPEST FOCUS!

ELECTROMAGNETIC
SENSES...





WE'RE
IN
DANGER!

THE SHOCK-
WAVES AREN'T
REFLECTING
BACK...



gr...

ACTIVE
SONAR
?

I'D
FIRE
CANNON
SHELLS
MYSELF...



DON'T
YOU
HAVE
ANY
MAN-
NERS?!

ISN'T
ANYONE
GOING TO
WELCOME
US?



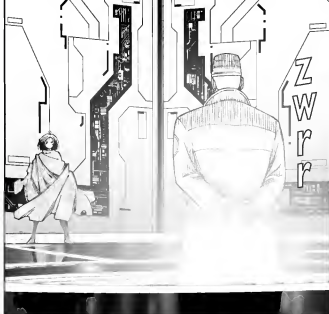
...NO
MATTER
WHAT IT
TAKES!

I CAN'T
RETURN TO
THE SURFACE
WITHOUT
HER!



BUT I'M
MORE THAN
PREPARED
FOR A
LITTLER
DANGER...

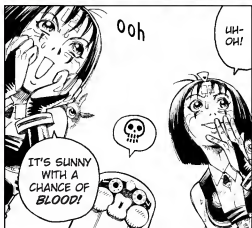
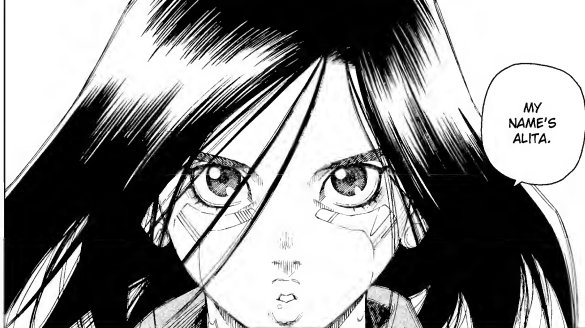
I HAVE TO
BRING LOU
BACK TO
LIFE...

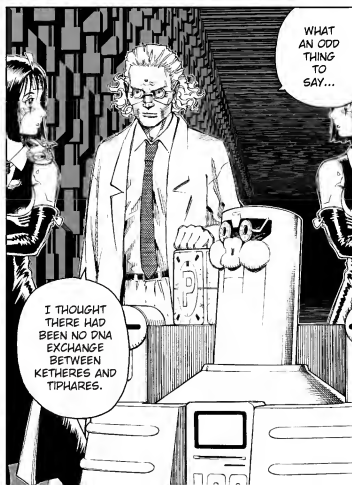


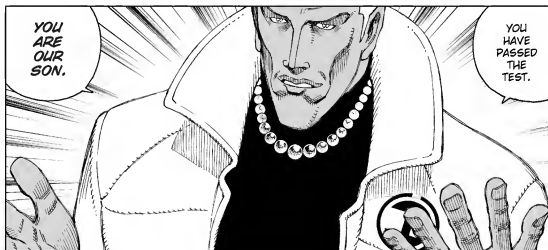
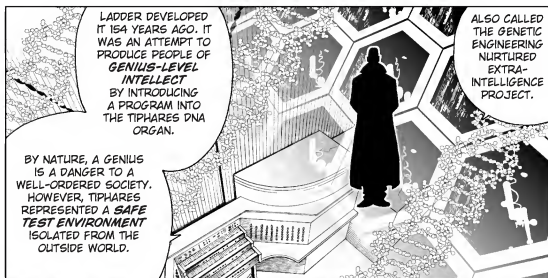


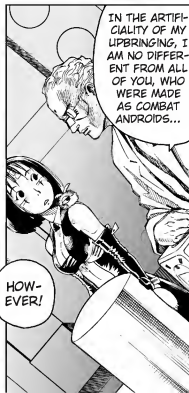
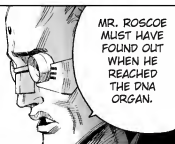
WELCOME
TO
KETHERES.

*THIS...
IS THE
WORLD'S
ZENITH.*











...HE'S
SOUGHT
FREEDOM
JUST LIKE
ME!

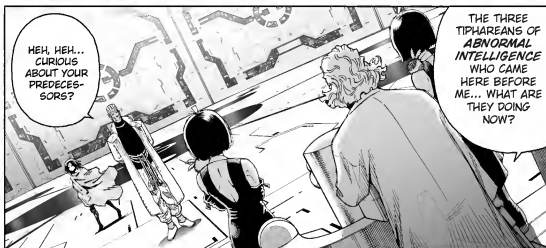
DESTY
NOVA!
SO ALL
THESE
YEARS...



I HAVE
ONE
QUESTION
FIRST.



ARE YOU
SATISFIED?
NOW STEP
OUT OF THE
ELEVATOR....



HEH, HEH...
CURIOUS
ABOUT YOUR
PREDECESS-
ORS?

THE THREE
TIPHAREANS OF
ABNORMAL
INTELLIGENCE
WHO CAME
HERE BEFORE
ME... WHAT ARE
THEY DOING
NOW?

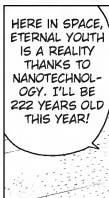


gwm



I
SEE...

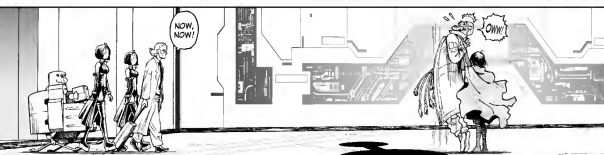
ALITA?

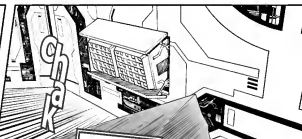
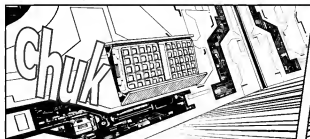


HERE IN SPACE,
ETERNAL YOUTH
IS A REALITY
THANKS TO
NANOTECHNOLOG-
Y. I'LL BE
222 YEARS OLD
THIS YEAR!



THEY ARE
STILL IN
KETHERES,
DEVOTED
TO THEIR
RESEARCH.







IDIOT!
ACT FIRST,
THREATEN
LATER!



...GET
ME...

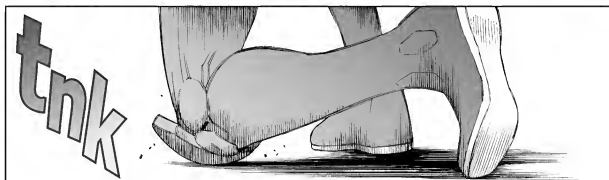
THAT
SLOW-ASS
THROW
WON'T...

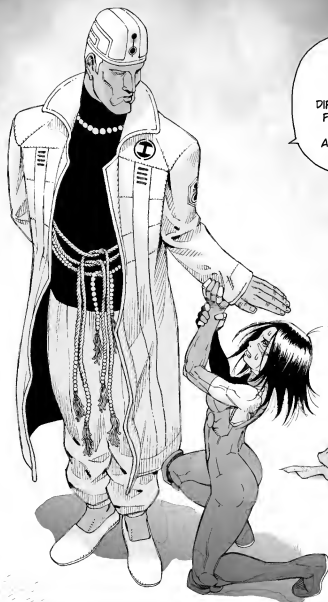
?!
I-I
CAN'T...



HEH...
SO THAT'S
WHERE
YOU WERE
HIDING!







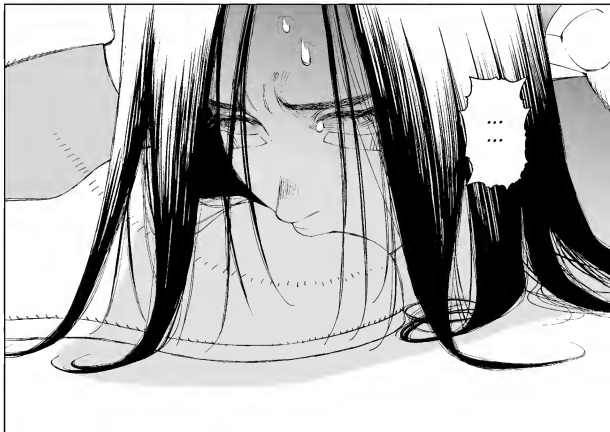
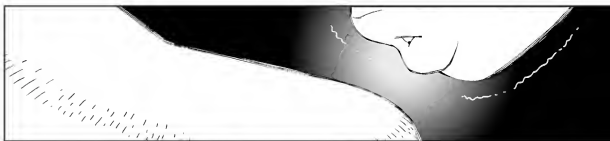
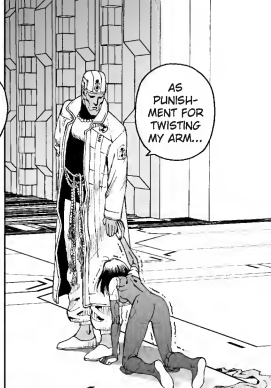
YOU'RE
BUILT A
LITTLE
DIFFERENTLY
FROM THE
OTHER
ANDROIDS.



I...I'M
NOT A
ROBOT!

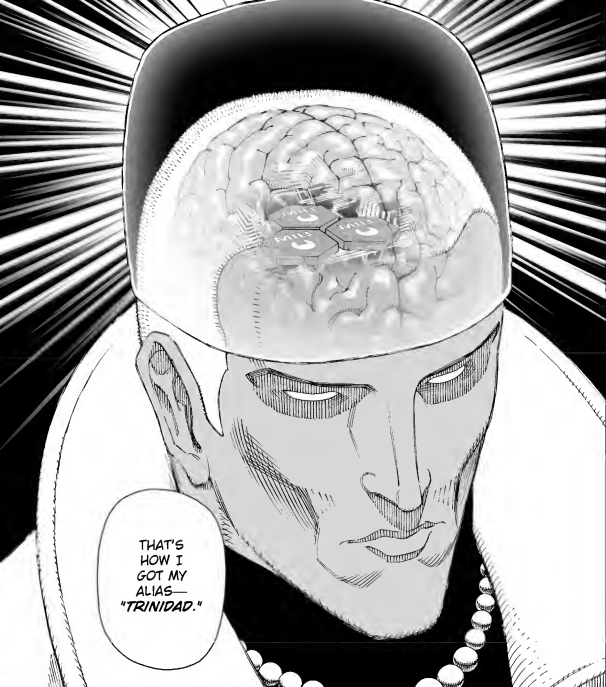
I GET IT
NOW...
HE ISN'T
STRONGER
THAN ME—
THEY'VE
HACKED MY
BODY!

IT TOOK
PHYSICAL
CONTACT
TO ACCESS
YOU.









THAT'S
HOW I
GOT MY
ALIAS—
"TRINIDAD."



...I MIGHT
HAVE TO
CHANGE MY
NICKNAME
TO QUADRA!
HAH...

HEH, HEH!
IF I ADD
YOUR
BRAIN BIO-
CHIP...



tunk klunk



UTTER
DEFEAT...
I'M
COMPLETELY
POWERLESS!

LOU...!



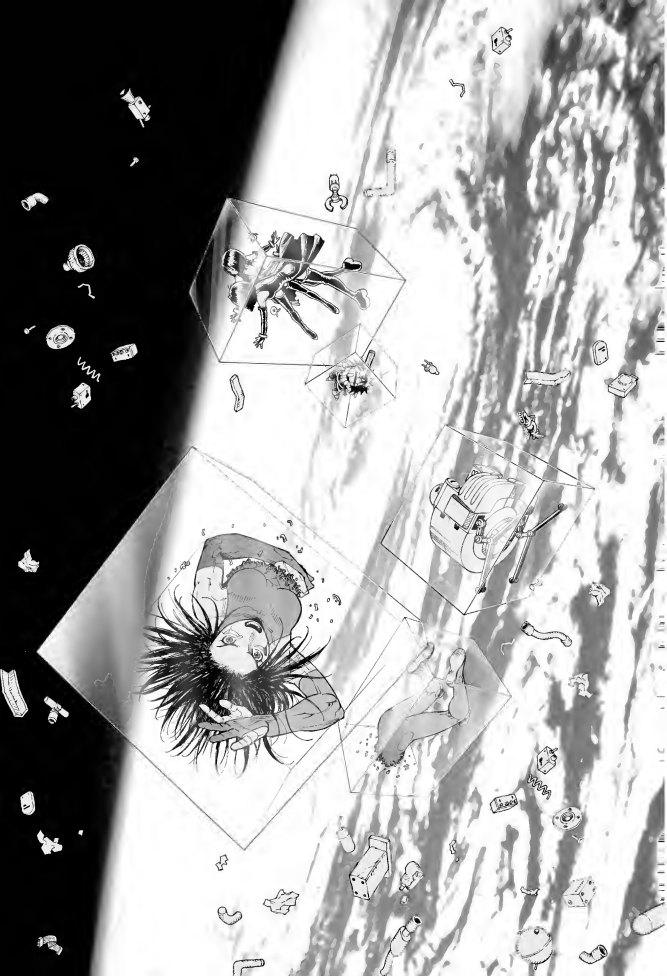
WAAH!
I DON'T
WANNA DIE
IN THIS
DORKY
POSITION!

DON'T
THROW
ME
OUT!

AT LEAST
WE WILL DIE
TOGETHER,
MASTER!



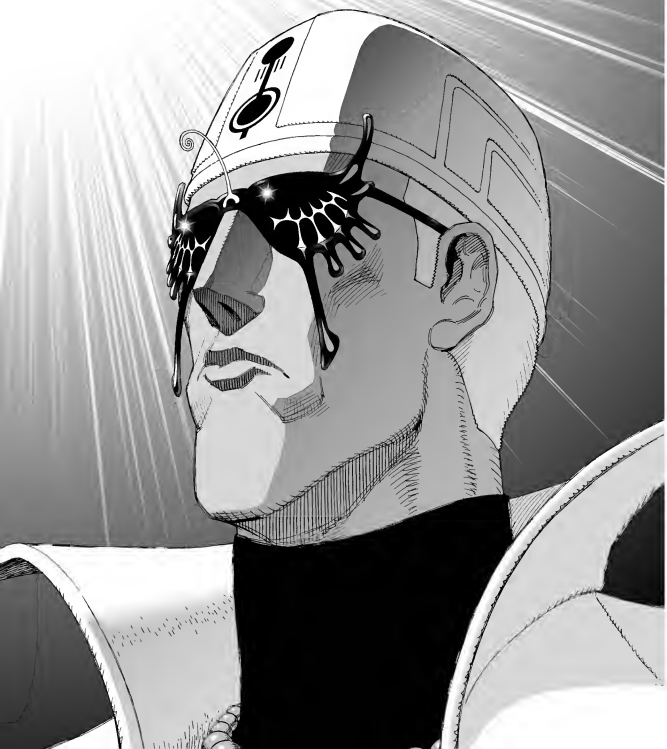
foom





PHASE 14

King of the Land of Robots, and...





DAMN!
IT'S NO USE...
I CAN'T EVEN
PRODUCE
PLASMA!

AT THIS RATE,
WE'LL BE
INCINERATED BY
ATMOSPHERIC
FRICTION!
BUT IF I...

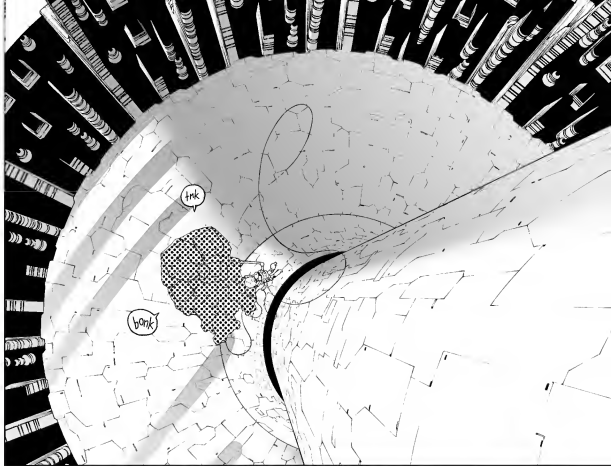
...FAMILIAR
SOMEHOW...

THIS
FEELS...

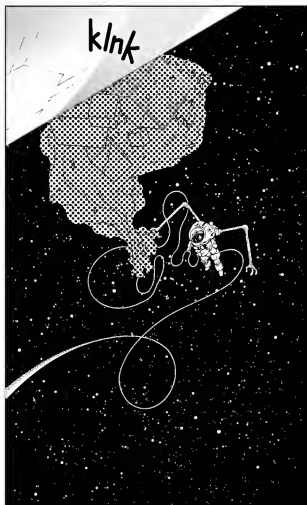
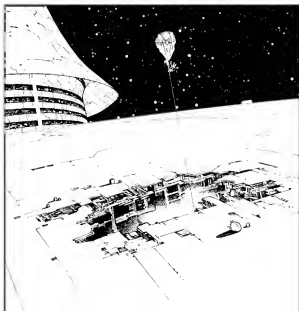
WAIT!

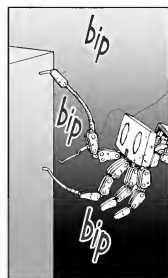
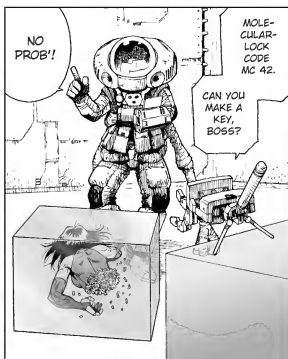
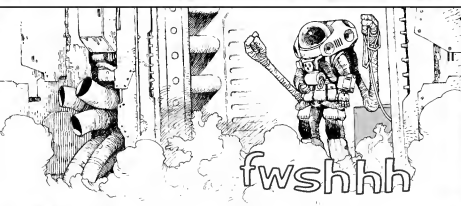
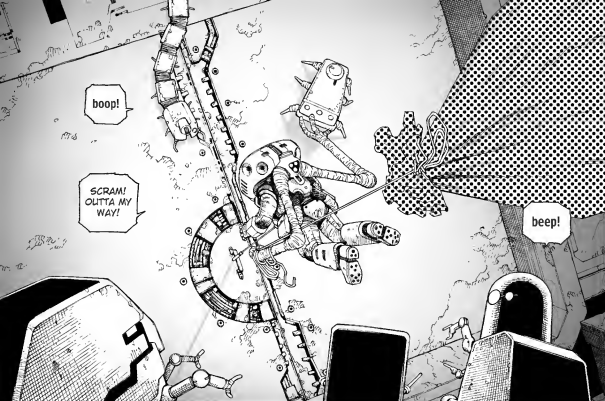
?!

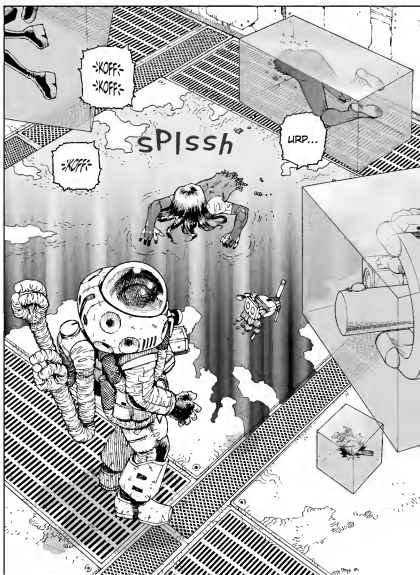
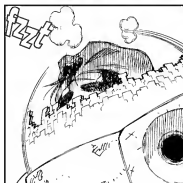
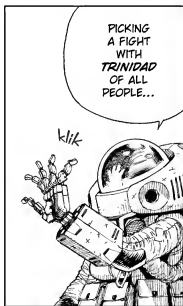
TWASH



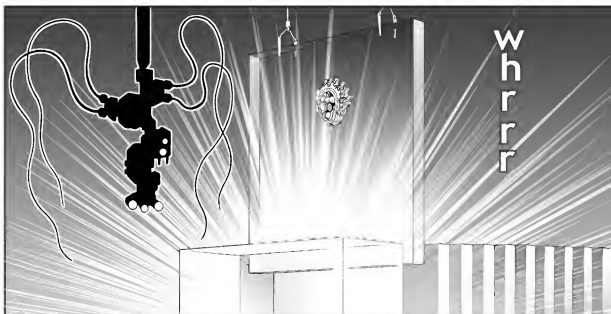
YAY!
♥
WE'RE
SAVED!

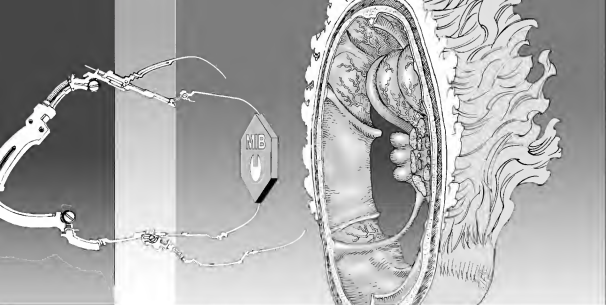












ALL THE KNOWLEDGE
OF THE MAN KNOWN AS
DESTY NOVA...

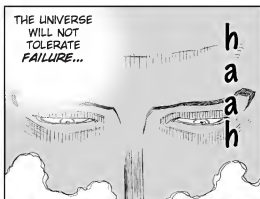
AND HIS *ATMAN*,
HIS *TRUE SELF...*



THIS
ASSIMILATION
WILL BE AN
ORDEAL LIKE
NO OTHER.

うんうん





SHE'S SO
EMOTIONAL...
LIKE A
HYSTERICAL
WOMAN FROM
OLDEN TIMES!

THIS
ONE
ROBOT...



REALLY?
I WAS
SURE
YOU
WERE...
A ROBO-
CAT WHO
FELL
OUT OF
SOME-
ONE'S
POCKET!



BUT JUST
SO YOU
KNOW—I'M
NOT A
ROBOT!

I...I'M
SORRY...



JUST A
JOKE!
NO
HARM
DONE!

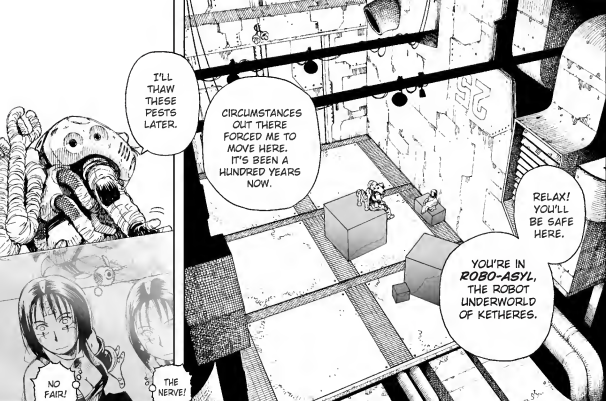
KALE
HERE IS MY
PARTNER—
COMES IN
HANDY.

NICE
TA
MEETCHA.



MY
NAME'S
PING...

PING
WU.



I'LL
THAW
THESE
PESTS
LATER.

CIRCUMSTANCES
OUT THERE
FORCED ME TO
MOVE HERE.
IT'S BEEN A
HUNDRED YEARS
NOW.

RELAX!
YOU'LL
BE SAFE
HERE.

YOU'RE IN
ROBO-ASYL,
THE ROBOT
UNDERWORLD
OF KETHERES.

NO
FAIR!

THE
NERVE!

"THANK
YOU?"

THANK
YOU FOR
SAVING
ME!

.....
THAT
WAS
CLOSE...
THANKS.

MY
NAME'S
ALITA.

THAT'S
IT?

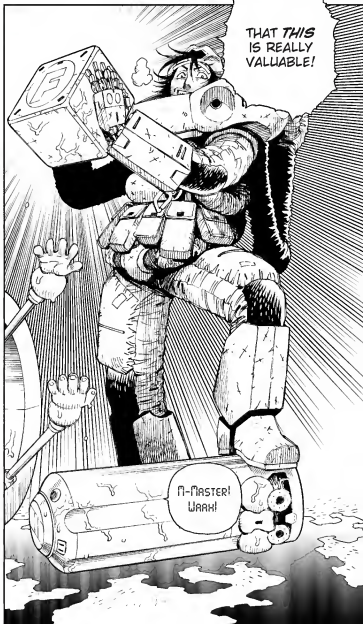
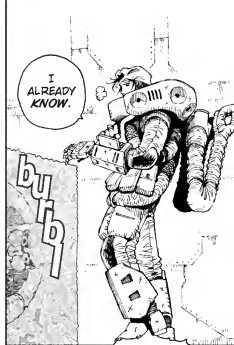
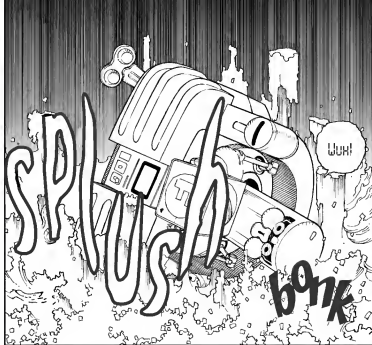
OH!!

WUZZAT?
I DIDN'T
HEAR.

HUH?

YOU DON'T
REALLY THINK
THAT REPAYS
ME FOR
SAVING YOUR
LIFE, DO YOU?

LEMME
GET THIS
STRAIGHT.





HIRE ME
THEN! I CAN
BE A LOTTA
HELP!

SO YOU
WANNA GET
YOUR
FRIEND'S
BRAIN BACK,
RIGHT, ALITA?



'COURSE,
I DON'T
COME
CHEAP...
HEH!

I KNOW
KETHERES INSIDE
AND OUT—AND
ALL OF
TRINIDAD'S
TRICKS!



REALLY?
HEH HEH
HEH...

DON'T
HOLD OUT
ON ME...



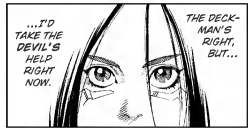
I'D
LIKE
TO
HIRE
YOU...

...BUT I
DON'T HAVE
ANYTHING
TO PAY
YOU WITH.



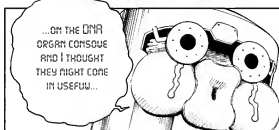
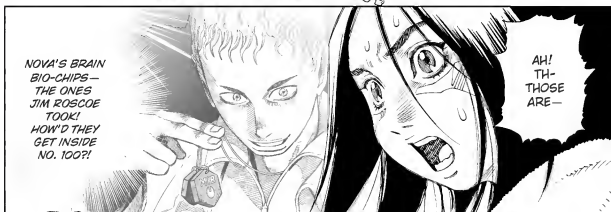
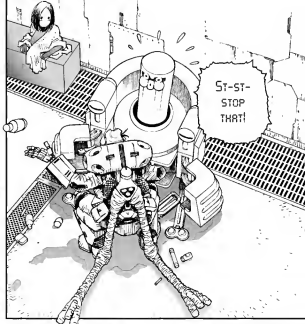
...

FISTER.
DON'T
TRUST
HIM—
HE'S
SHADY!



...I'D
TAKE THE
DEVIL'S
HELP
RIGHT
NOW.

THE DECK-
MAN'S
RIGHT,
BUT...





TO HELL WITH
MORALS AND
LAWS. WHO
CARES WHETHER
STRANGERS DIE
OR LIVE?!

IT'S ALL
ABOUT
YOU!

IF YOU LIKE
THEM, THEY'LL
LIVE! IF NOT...



NO NEED TO
PLAY GOODY-
GOODY WITH
ME. WE'RE
BIRDS OF A
FEATHER!

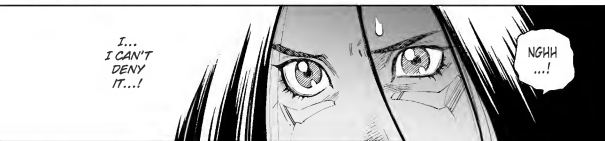
YOU'LL GO
TO THE WALL
FOR YOUR
PALS...

...AND KILL
ANYONE
WHO
IRRITATES
YOU!



AND WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN,
DANGEROUS?

...YOU DON'T
GIVE A CRAP
WHAT THIS
INFO WOULD DO
TO THE WORLD,
DO YOU?!



I...
I CAN'T
DENY
IT...!

NGHH
...!



I CAN
LIVE
WITH
THAT.



Snap



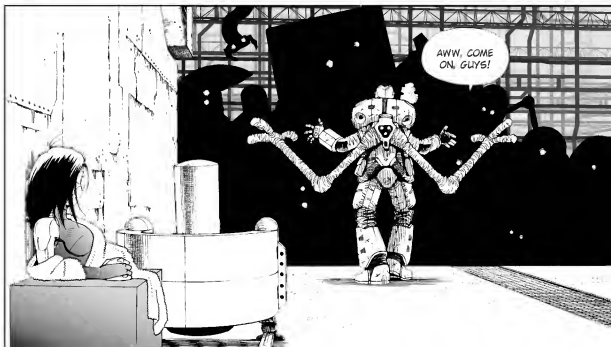
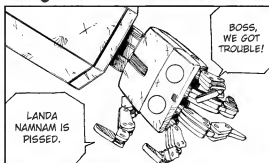
ONE
NOW.

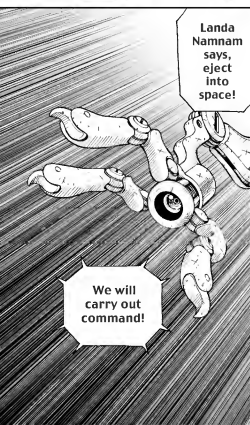
THE
OTHER
IF YOU
SUCCEED.



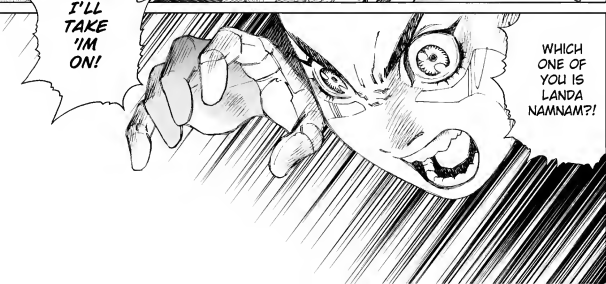
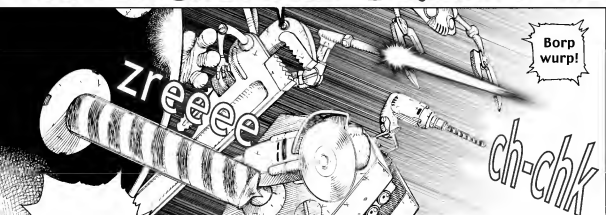
YOU...
YOU'RE
RIGHT.

I JUST
WANT
LOU
ALIVE
AGAIN.











COOL IT!
CHILL! WHAT'S
THE POINT OF
ROBOTS
HURTING EACH
OTHER?!

DON'T
STOP ME—
I'M IN THE
FIGHTING
MOOD
NOW...!

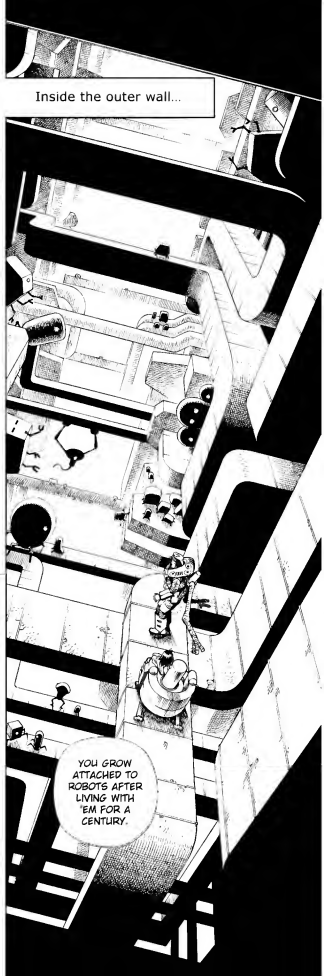
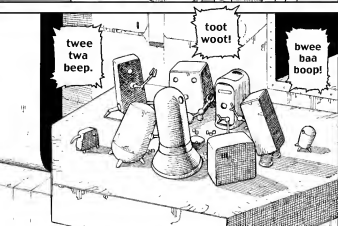


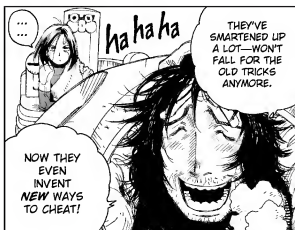
I'LL
TALK TO
LANDA
MYSELF.

We will
defer
action.



WHO
YOU
CALLING A
ROBOT?

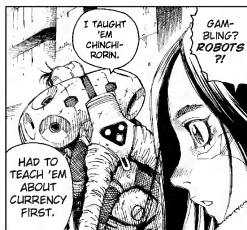




ha ha ha

THEY'VE
SMARTENED UP
A LOT—WON'T
FALL FOR THE
OLD TRICKS
ANYMORE.

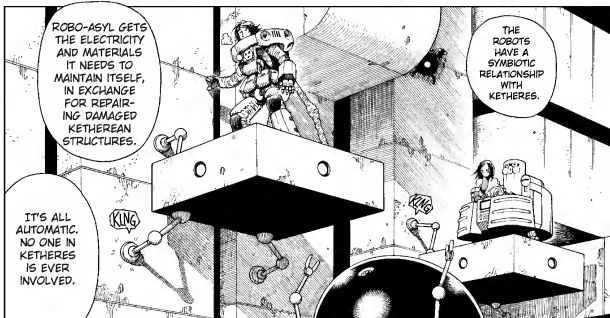
NOW THEY
EVEN
INVENT
NEW WAYS
TO CHEAT!



I TAUGHT
'EM
CHINGHI-
RORIN.

GAM-
BLING?
ROBOTS
?!

HAD TO
TEACH 'EM
ABOUT
CURRENCY
FIRST.

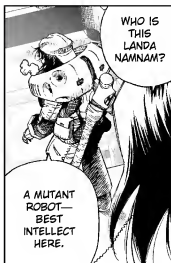


ROBO-ASYL GETS
THE ELECTRICITY
AND MATERIALS
IT NEEDS TO
MAINTAIN ITSELF,
IN EXCHANGE
FOR REPAIR-
ING DAMAGED
KETHEREAN
STRUCTURES.

THE
ROBOTS
HAVE A
SYMBIOTIC
RELATIONSHIP
WITH
KETHERES.

IT'S ALL
AUTOMATIC.
NO ONE IN
KETHERES
IS EVER
INVOLVED.

KING



WHO IS
THIS
LANDA
NAMNAM?

A MUTANT
ROBOT—
BEST
INTELLECT
HERE.



THAT
EXCHANGE
BUILT
ROBO-
ASYL...

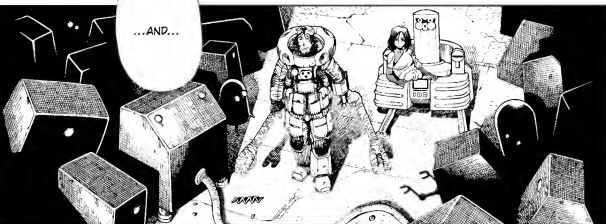
...BUT
LANDA'S
AFRAID
THEY'LL
FIND OUT
ABOUT US.



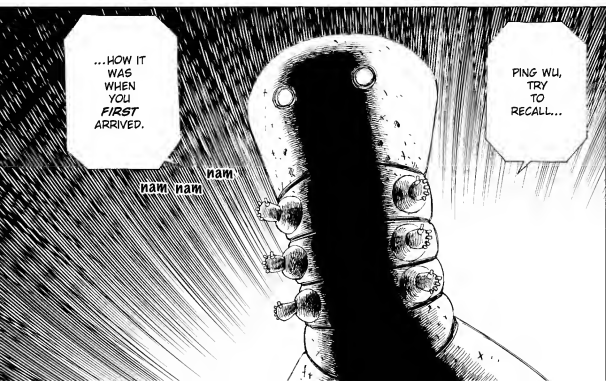
SORT OF
LIKE
TIPIHARES
AND THE
SCRAP-
YARD...



HE'S
THE KING
OF THE
LAND OF
ROBOTS...



...AND...



...HOW IT
WAS
WHEN
YOU
FIRST
ARRIVED.

PING WU,
TRY
TO
RECALL...

nam
nam nam



IZZAT
SO?

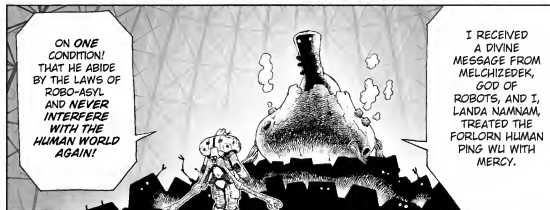
LONG
TIME AGO.
MUSTA
FORGOT.



nam
nam
nam

YOU
DESPAIRED OF
THE HUMAN
WORLD,
SAYING YOU
HAD LOST
YOUR FRIENDS
AND YOUR
PURPOSE...

YOU CAME
HERE IN
ES 490.*
YOUR
BODY
BADLY
DAMAGED.



ON ONE
CONDITION!
THAT HE ABIDE
BY THE LAWS OF
ROBO-ASYL
AND NEVER
INTERFERE
WITH THE
HUMAN WORLD
AGAIN!

I RECEIVED
A DIVINE
MESSAGE FROM
MELCHIZEDEK,
GOD OF
ROBOTS, AND I,
LANDA NAMNAM,
TREATED THE
FORLORN HUMAN
PING WU WITH
MERCY.



...EVEN
THAT,
PING WU?

HAVE
YOU
FORGOT-
TEN...



*ES (Era Sputnik): Standard dating system used in space. The year the first artificial satellite Sputnik was launched into space (1957) marks the first year. Years are based on the period of Earth's rotation around the Sun.



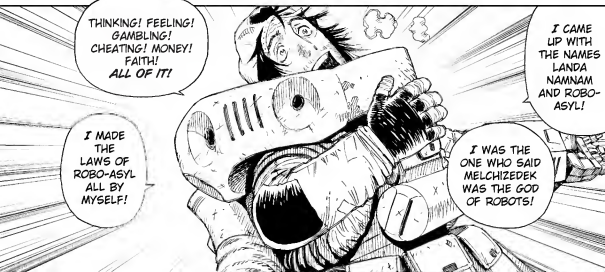
DON'T
REWRITE
HISTORY TO
SUIT YOU!

YOU'VE
GOT IT ALL
WRONG.



I WAS
THE ONE
WHO
TAUGHT YOU
HUMAN
LANGUAGE!

IF YOUR
MEMORY'S
REALLY
THAT HAZY
I'LL RE-
MIND YOU.



THINKING! FEELING!
GAMBLING!
CHEATING! MONEY!
FAITH!
ALL OF IT!

I MADE
THE
LAWS OF
ROBO-ASYL
ALL BY
MYSELF!

I WAS THE
ONE WHO SAID
MELCHIZEDEK
WAS THE GOD
OF ROBOTS!

I CAME
UP WITH
THE NAMES
LANDA
NAMNAM
AND ROBO-
ASYL!

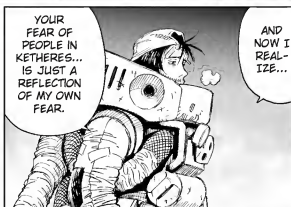


...!



...TO
PROTECT
ME FROM
THAT
WORLD.

CONSCIOUS-
LY AND LINCON-
SCIOUSLY...
I USED YOU
ALL AS A
FIREWALL...



YOUR
FEAR OF
PEOPLE IN
KETHERES...
IS JUST A
REFLECTION
OF MY OWN
FEAR.

AND
NOW I
REAL-
IZE...



...WILL
YOU NOW
FORSAKE
US...

...AND
RETURN
TO THE
WORLD
YOU FLED?

nam...

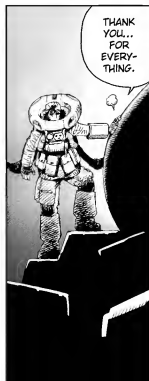
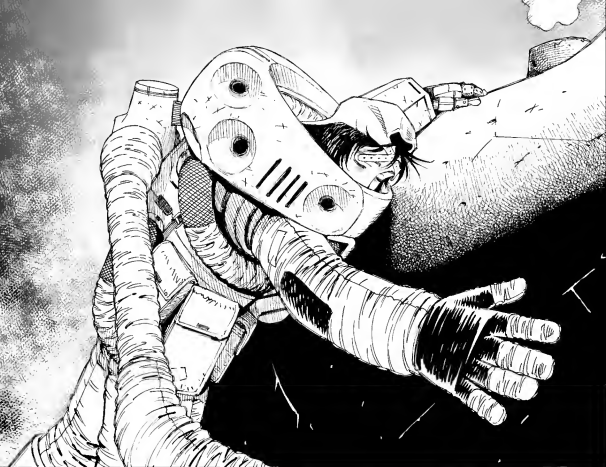
SO THEN...
IF YOU
HAVE
BROKEN
YOUR OWN
LAW...

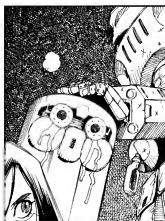


...YOU...

...YOU'VE
FOUND A
REASON
TO LIVE
AGAIN?!

PING,
MY
FRIEND...





THE KING
OF THE
LAND OF
ROBOTS,
AND...

LANDA
NAMNAM...

...MY
FRIEND...

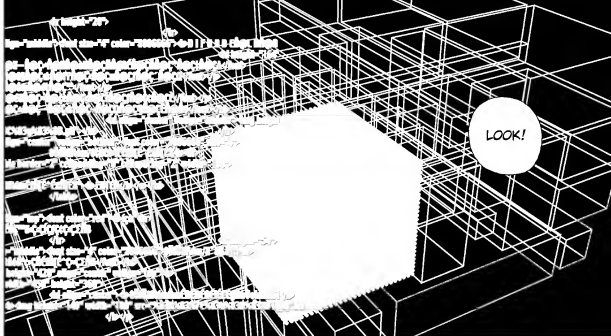
TELL ME
SOME-
THING
I DON'T
KNOW.



PHASE 15

I'm Sure We'll Meet Again

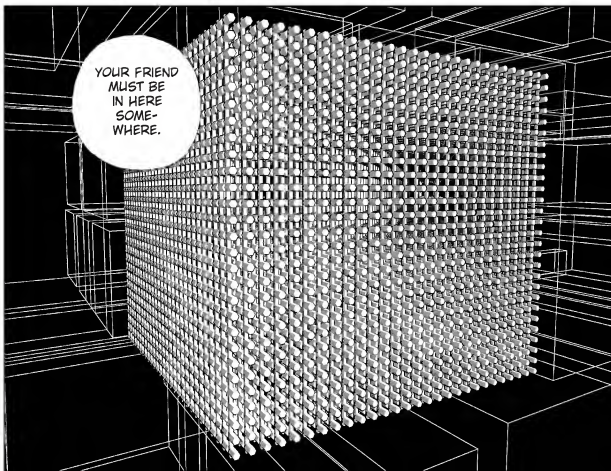




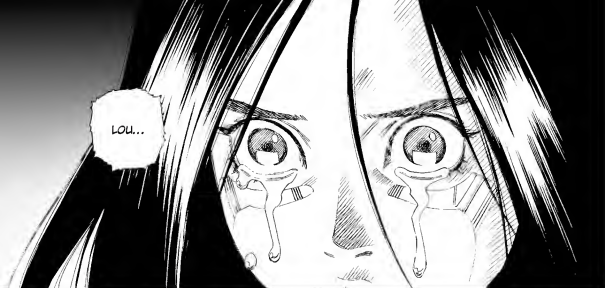
LOOK!



THIS IS A
BLUEPRINT
OF THE
INCUBATOR,
WHERE
TIPHAREANS'
BRAINS ARE
INTEGRATED...



YOUR FRIEND
MUST BE
IN HERE
SOME-
WHERE.



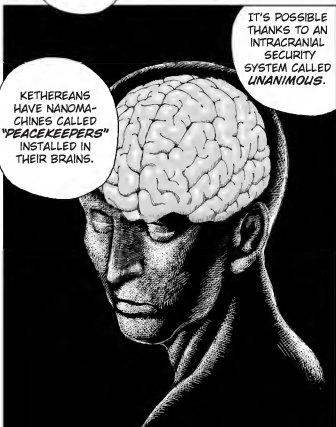


EVEN THE
ROBOTS OF
ROBO-ASYL
GET INTO
FIGHTS AND
DECEIVE EACH
OTHER.



BUT NO KETH-
EREAN HAS
COMMITTED
SUICIDE, OR
A CRIME, OR
EVEN FOUGHT,
IN THE LAST
HUNDRED
YEARS.

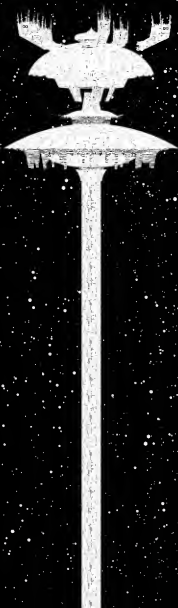
ACTUALLY, IT'S
DULL... BUT
FROM ANOTHER
PERSPECTIVE
IT'S A PLEAS-
ANT, PERFECT
SOCIETY!



KETHEREANS
HAVE NANOMA-
CHINES CALLED
"PEACEKEEPERS"
INSTALLED IN
THEIR BRAINS.

IT'S POSSIBLE
THANKS TO AN
INTRACRANIAL
SECURITY
SYSTEM CALLED
UNANIMOUS.

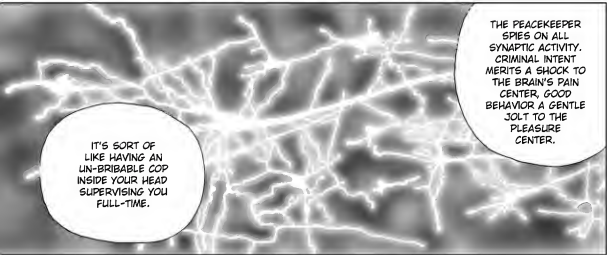
THE INCUBATOR
WAS CREATED
TO ALIGNMENT A
PUBLIC ORDER
SYSTEM CALLED
"UNANIMOUS."





BUT ITS
REAL
FUNCTION IS
TO ENFORCE
LAWS ON
THE
SYNAPTIC
LEVEL.

ON THE
SURFACE, IT'S JUST
A HANDY COMPUTER
IMPLANT THAT LETS
YOU ACCESS THE
MELCHIZEDEK NET
ON THE FLY FOR
ANY DATA YOU
MIGHT WANT.



IT'S SORT OF
LIKE HAVING AN
UN-BRIBABLE COP
INSIDE YOUR HEAD
SUPERVISING YOU
FULL-TIME.

THE PEACEKEEPER
SPIES ON ALL
SYNAPTIC ACTIVITY.
CRIMINAL INTENT
MERITS A SHOCK TO
THE BRAIN'S PAIN
CENTER, GOOD
BEHAVIOR A GENTLE
JOLT TO THE
PLEASURE
CENTER.



HOLD
YOUR
HORSES
...

...YOU SEE,
UNANIMOUS
SEEMED
PERFECT—BUT
THERE WAS
ONE FATAL
FLAW.



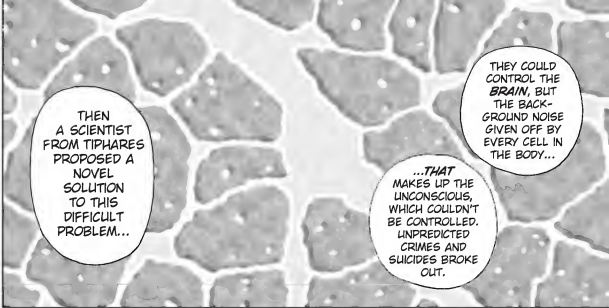
WHY
ARE WE
TALKING
ABOUT
THIS?

WHAT
DOES IT
HAVE TO
DO WITH
LOU?



WITHIN A
YEAR,
YOU'RE
PAVLOV'S
DOG.

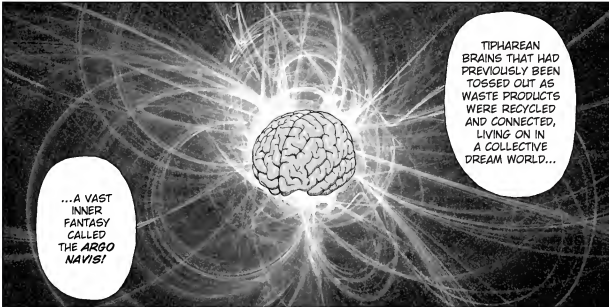
AND THE
BEST PART?
YOU NEVER
REALIZE
YOUR FREE
WILL IS
BEING
CONTROLLED.



THEN
A SCIENTIST
FROM TIPHARES
PROPOSED A
NOVEL
SOLUTION
TO THIS
DIFFICULT
PROBLEM...

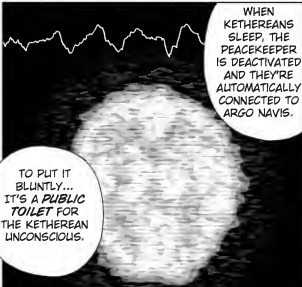
THEY COULD
CONTROL THE
BRAIN, BUT
THE BACK-
GROUND NOISE
GIVEN OFF BY
EVERY CELL IN
THE BODY...

...**THAT**
MAKES UP THE
UNCONSCIOUS,
WHICH COULDN'T
BE CONTROLLED.
UNPREDICTED
CRIMES AND
SUICIDES BROKE
OUT.



...A VAST
INNER
FANTASY
CALLED
THE **ARGO**
NAVIS!

TIPHAREAN
BRAINS THAT HAD
PREVIOUSLY BEEN
TOSSED OUT AS
WASTE PRODUCTS
WERE RECYCLED
AND CONNECTED,
LIVING ON IN
A COLLECTIVE
DREAM WORLD...

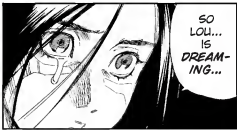


WHEN
KETHEREANS
SLEEP, THE
PEACEKEEPER
IS DEACTIVATED
AND THEY'RE
AUTOMATICALLY
CONNECTED TO
ARGO NAVIS.

TO PUT IT
BLUNTLY...
IT'S A **PUBLIC**
TOILET FOR
THE KETHEREAN
UNCONSCIOUS.



THEY
PROBABLY
DON'T EVEN
KNOW
THEY'RE
NOTHING
BUT
BRAINS.

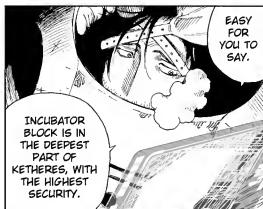


SO
LOU...
IS
DREAM-
ING...



I WANT
TO KILL
EVERYONE
WHO DID
THIS TO
LOU!

GRR...



EASY
FOR
YOU TO
SAY.

INCUBATOR
BLOCK IS IN
THE DEEPEST
PART OF
KETHERES, WITH
THE HIGHEST
SECURITY.



PLEASE GET
LOU OUT OF
THERE AS
QUICKLY AS
POSSIBLE!



WHY
THE
RUSH?

HUMANITY'S
ON ITS
WAY OUT
ANYHOW.



THAT'S
RIGHT!

JUST
REMEMBER
YOU'D BE
UP A
CREEK
WITHOUT
ME!



I—I
DON'T
KNOW!

FIGURING
ALL THAT
STUFF
OUT IS
YOUR
JOB!



HOW'RE WE
GONNA PICK
JUST ONE
PERSON
OUTTA
20,000
UNLABELED
BRAINS?

AND EVEN IF
WE DO GET HER
OUT, WHAT'LL
YOU DO WITH HER
THEN? WHERE
WILL YOU RUN
CARRYING THAT
SLIMY BLOB?



HOLD ON!

THAT WASN'T PART OF THE DEAL!



DON'T PANIC. WE'LL COME BACK.

LANDA TOLD US TO HIGHTAIL IT OUTTA HERE.



FIRST, WE'LL HAVE TO ESCAPE FROM KETHERES!

WHAT ?!



I DON'T TRUST THIS GUY. WHAT IF HE GOES BACK ON HIS WORD AND RUNS OFF AFTER WE LEAVE KETHERES?!

RIGHT... LANDA, THE **LAST** PAL YOU BETRAYED!



DON'T TRUST ME?

FINE. I'LL LET YA IN ON PART OF MY PLAN.



WHAT'S THAT WARY LOOK ABOUT?

Z.O.T. TOURNAMENT

EVERY TEN YEARS, KETHERES PUTS ON ITS BIGGEST EVENT—THE Z.O.T. TOURNAMENT.*

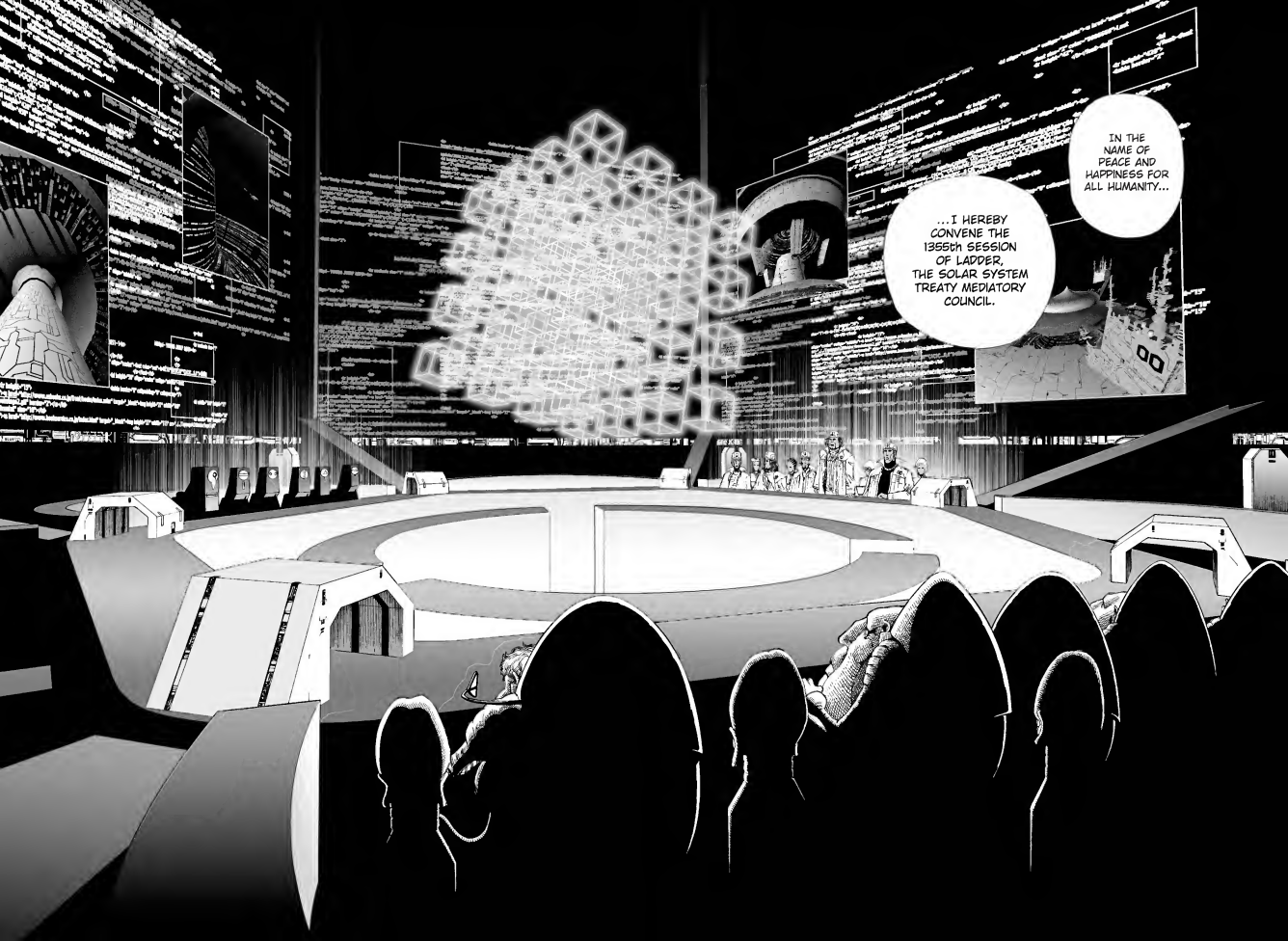
THREE MONTHS FROM NOW, WE MARCH IN AS AN OFFICIAL TEAM, LOOK FOR AN OPENING AND MAKE OFF WITH THE BRAIN. HEH HEH... SOUNDS EXCITING, RIGHT?



*Z.O.T. Tournament: Short for "Zenith of Things Tournament," it began as an experiment to see how robots would fare against trained soldiers.







...I HEREBY
CONVENE THE
1355th SESSION
OF LADDER,
THE SOLAR SYSTEM
TREATY MEDIATORY
COUNCIL.

IN THE
NAME OF
PEACE AND
HAPPINESS FOR
ALL HUMANITY...



...MR. FOURNIER,
WHOSE
PREDECESSOR,
MR. DUPLY,
PASSED AWAY
FROM
SPONTANEOUS
HUMAN
COMBUSTION.*

BEFORE WE
BEGIN,
PLEASE
ALLOW
ME TO
PRESENT...

LADDER Chairman Yajnik

...THUS
I HAVE
BROUGHT A
SPECIALTY OF
MY COUNTRY,
ROASTED
INFANT MEAT
HOMINID.*



République Vénus Chief Delegate Fournier

AS SWIFT*
ONCE
ADVISED US,
"EAT THE
CHILDREN."

HOW
DO YOU
DO.

kack
kack!

Squik!



A NONSENTIENT
SPECIES,
GENETICALLY EN-
GINEERED FOR HUMAN
NUTRITION. AMINO
ACIDS, VITAMINS,
MINERALS—
A PERFECT BALANCE,
SINCE THEY'RE SO
SIMILAR TO US.

FRANKLY,
I PREFER
CHICKEN.

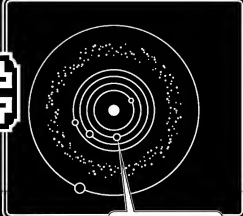
INFANT
M-MEAT
HOMINID?!

***Spontaneous human combustion:** A phenomenon in which a human body catches fire with no apparent cause.

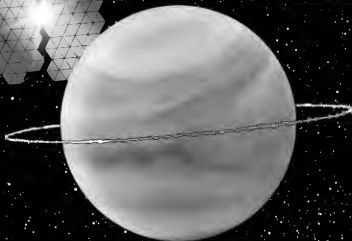
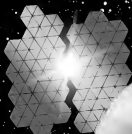
***Jonathan Swift (1667-1745):** A British satirist and author of "Gulliver's Travels."

***Infant meat hominid:** Homo esculentus.

République Vénus



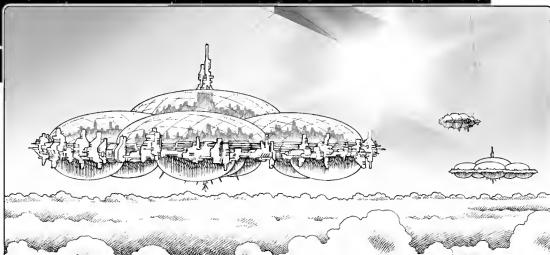
Venus: second planet from the sun
Radius at equator: 6052 km
Period of rotation: 243 days
Period of revolution: 224.7 days



ES 242: First Venusian space colony built in orbit.

ES 250: République Vénus, consisting of several colonial states, founded. Terraforming projects progress. Planet has mean surface temperature over 400°C, 90 mm Hg atmospheric pressure, and a sky covered by a dense cloud of sulfuric gas.

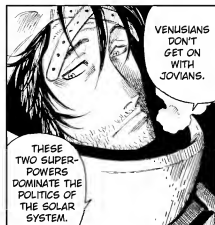
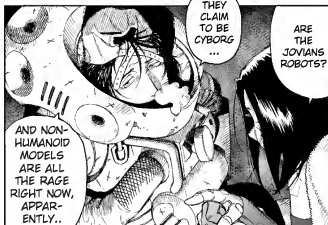
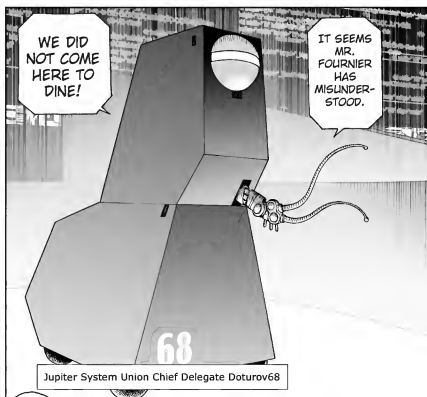
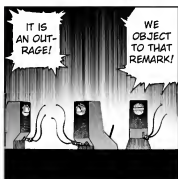
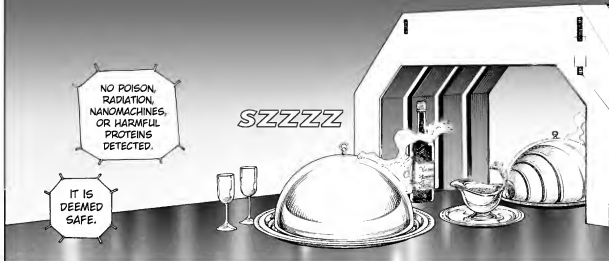
Construction of huge solar shield at the Lagrange point* cools atmosphere, with current surface temperatures of -50°C. Ownership of Enceladus,* the icy moon required for final stages of terraforming, in dispute with the Jupiter Union—thus terraforming only half finished.



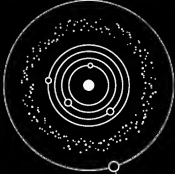
Floating cities 8 km above the surface

***Lagrange points:** Points near two orbiting masses where their gravitational pulls cancel each other out, stabilizing the orbit of a third mass. Proven by French mathematician Lagrange (1736-1813).

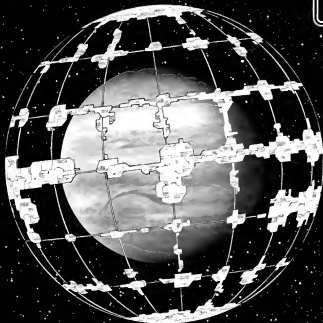
***Enceladus:** Moon also known as Saturn II. Radius at equator: 251 km. Discovered in 1789 by Herschel and named after a giant of Greek mythology.



Jupiter System Union



Jupiter: fifth planet from the sun
 Radius at equator: 71,398 km
 Period of rotation: 0.4 days
 Period of revolution: 11.86 years



ES 263: The first colony is built on Ganymede, one of the Galilean satellites.*

ES 300: The Jupiter System Union declares independence, with colonies not only on the Galilean moons, but also on the Trojan asteroid clouds along Jupiter's orbital path. It maintains a healthy economy due to the wealth of mineral resources on the asteroids, and the abundance of the nuclear fusion fuel helium-3 in the Jovian atmosphere.*

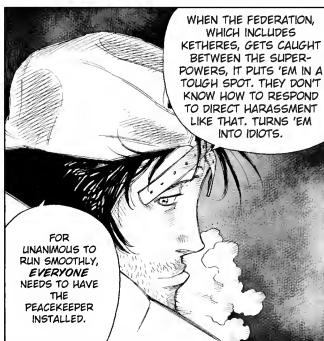
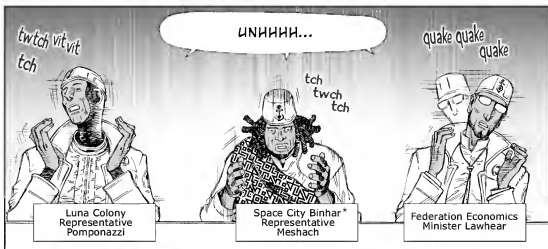
ES 316: Work begins on the "Toposphere Project," a giant shell to provide living space for Jupiter. Of the 16 original moons, all but three (Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto—each too urbanized to sacrifice) have been consumed to provide materials for the unfinished Toposphere. Jupiter and Venus both claim rights to Saturn's satellites and the asteroid belt to use as resources for their terraforming efforts.



The mechanized metropolis on Ganymede, the largest Jovian moon. Citizens are required to be space-compatible cyborgs, so few airtight chambers are needed.

***Galilean satellites:** Four large moons discovered by Galileo in 1610: Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto.

***Helium-3:** An isotope of helium. A deuterium-helium-3 plasma reaction operates at close to 100% efficiency, making it the ideal fuel for nuclear fusion.



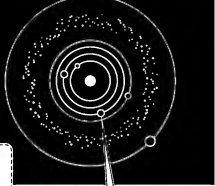
**Binhar*: The space city diametrically opposed to Ketheres pumps oxygen and seawater from the surface via the orbital elevator for export to the colonies. The corresponding surface gate city is *Nezher*.

Earth Orbital Federation



The Orbital Ring System

An orbital ring of two masses, wrapped in a tube and spinning in opposite directions, supports the diametrically opposed orbital elevators. The advantage of this structure is that the elevators can be constructed in places other than the equator, on any desired latitude and longitude.



Earth: third planet from the sun
 Radius at equator: 6378 km
 Period of rotation: 0.997 days
 Period of revolution: 365.26 days
 Satellite: Luna
 Radius at equator: 1738 km
 Period of revolution: 27.32 days

Space City Binhai

Sky hook

Earth

Orbital ring

Space City Ketheres

Orbital elevator

Earth: Cradle of the human race.

ES 55: Geo Catastrophe—a giant meteor impact near Japan almost wipes out the entire population of the planet. Seventy years later, Melchizedek, an A.I. that managed to survive this extinction-level event, implements the Rehabilitation Settlement Project, sending pioneers to other planets to dilute the danger of extinction.

ES 218: The orbital ring system "Jacob's Ladder" is complete. The settlement project shows steady progress, but Earth is forced to alter its role after the colonies declare independence.

ES 301: Earth and the lunar colonies declare the formation of the Earth Orbital Federation.

ES 387: LADDER, the Solar System Treaty Mediatory Council, is founded on Space City Ketheres. Their unique history and political circumstances make the character of the Federation complex. Although weather patterns on the surface have been stable for two centuries, open redevelopment and transportation are still restricted by treaties.



The **skyhook**, the link between the orbital elevator and the orbital ring. The orbital ring system has undergone many repairs, and its roles and functions have changed dramatically.



PSST!



SAY
WHAT?



TAKE
YOURS
TO
GO.

ALL
RIGHT.
GRR...



O-O
F COURSE!

CHAIR-
MAN,
LET'S
MOVE
ON!



MOST
LIKELY.

DOES HE
HAVE A
PEACE-
KEEPER
TOO?

NOT
THAT IT
DOES
MUCH
GOOD. THAT
ONE'S A
MYSTERY
...



KEEP
YOUR
EYE ON
HIM!

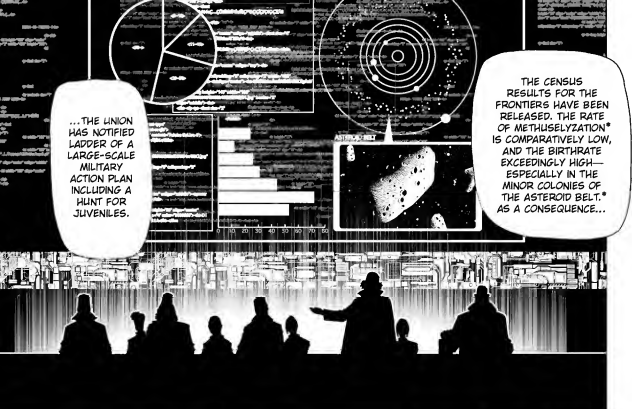
THE SO-
CALLED
ASSISTANT
CHAIRMAN—
LADDER'S
TOP DOG!



NO
NEED
TO EAT
THAT.

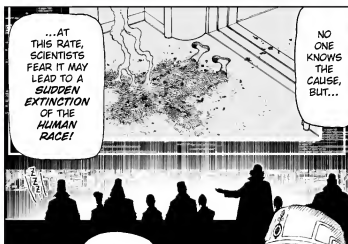
krsh

krnch



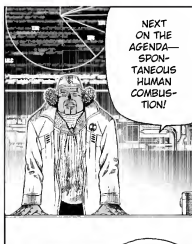
***Methuselyzation:** Halting the aging process by installing personal nanomachines in the body, thus making immortality a reality. Methuselah, a figure in the Biblical Book of Genesis, is purported to have lived 969 years.

***Asteroid belt:** A donut-shaped region between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter in which most of the Solar System's asteroids are found.



...AT THIS RATE, SCIENTISTS FEAR IT MAY LEAD TO A SUDDEN EXTINCTION OF THE HUMAN RACE!

NO ONE KNOWS THE CAUSE, BUT...

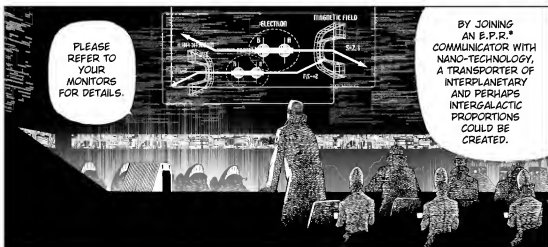


NEXT ON THE AGENDA—SPONTANEOUS HUMAN COMBUSTION!



...OF SUPER-LUMINAL RESEARCH—SPECIFICALLY, A FASTER THAN LIGHT TRANSPORTER-REPLICATOR.

MOVING ON, I WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THE PROS AND CONS...



PLEASE REFER TO YOUR MONITORS FOR DETAILS.



BY JOINING AN E.P.R.* COMMUNICATOR WITH NANO-TECHNOLOGY, A TRANSPORTER OF INTERPLANETARY AND PERHAPS INTERGALACTIC PROPORTIONS COULD BE CREATED.

***E.P.R. communicator:** Named after Einstein, Podolsky and Rosen, who advanced the EPR Thought Experiment as an argument to refute quantum mechanics, using relativity's concept that communication is impossible at speeds greater than that of light. Ironically, the experiment was verified by experimental violation of Bell's Inequalities, and EPR became the name for a super-luminal communicator that used electron spin.



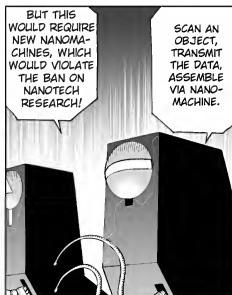
TRUE.

AND
YET...



AND THE
ORIGINAL
OBJECT
REMAINS
IN PLACE!
WITH
HUMANS...

...THIS
WOULD
CAUSE THE
SO-CALLED
"ALIAS
PROBLEM."*



BUT THIS
WOULD REQUIRE
NEW NANOMA-
CHINES, WHICH
WOULD VIOLATE
THE BAN ON
NANOTECH
RESEARCH!

SCAN AN
OBJECT,
TRANSMIT
THE DATA,
ASSEMBLE
VIA NANO-
MACHINE.



IT IS
POSSIBLE...

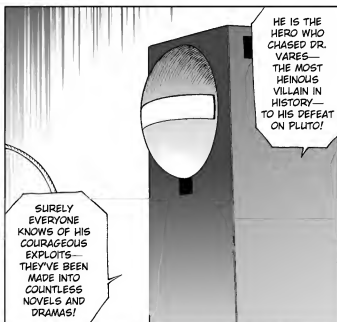
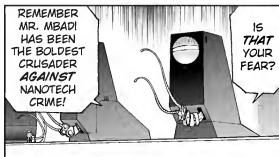
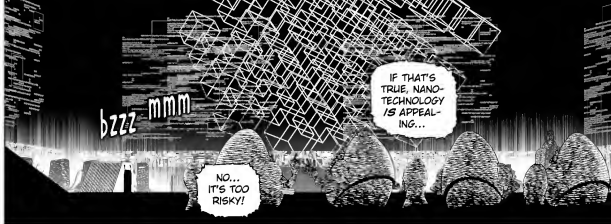
...WITH THE
THEORY OF
KARMATRON
DYNAMICS!



...WHAT IF
THERE WAS A
THEORY THAT
ALLOWED
COMPLETE
CONTROL OF
NANOMA-
CHINES?

IT WOULD
RENDER THE
200-YEAR-OLD
BAN ON
NANOTECH
RESEARCH AND
GENERATIONAL
GENOCIDE
MEANING-
LESS.

***Alias problem:** A problem accompanying the digitalization of humanity. If two human beings with the same memories, personality and physical structure existed in the same society at the same time, it would presumably cause not only an existential problem but also social unrest.



*Gray goo: Jargon for a disaster brought about by self replicating nanomachines running amok.

IF YOU
WOULD
ALLOW ME
THIRTY
YEARS...



...AND
THIS IS
THE
MOST
URGENT.

THE LAST
TOPIC ON
THE
AGENDA...

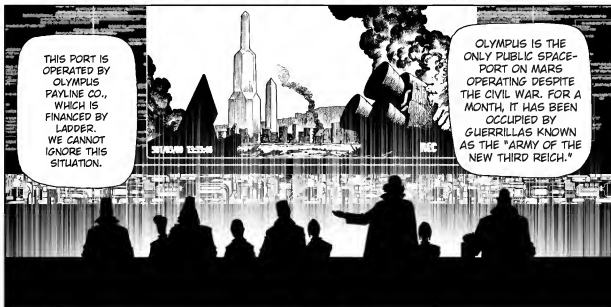
THE
INCIDENT AT
THE OLYMPUS
SPACEPORT
ON MARS...





ah!

MARS...

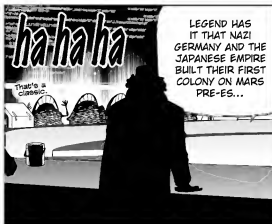


THIS PORT IS OPERATED BY OLYMPUS PAYLINE CO., WHICH IS FINANCED BY LADDER. WE CANNOT IGNORE THIS SITUATION.

OLYMPUS IS THE ONLY PUBLIC SPACE-PORT ON MARS OPERATING DESPITE THE CIVIL WAR. FOR A MONTH, IT HAS BEEN OCCUPIED BY GUERRILLAS KNOWN AS THE "ARMY OF THE NEW THIRD REICH."



WHAT ARE NEO-NAZIS DOING ON MARS?



ha-ha-ha

That's a classic.

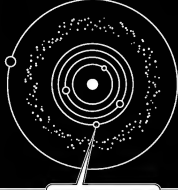
LEGEND HAS IT THAT NAZI GERMANY AND THE JAPANESE EMPIRE BUILT THEIR FIRST COLONY ON MARS PRE-ES...



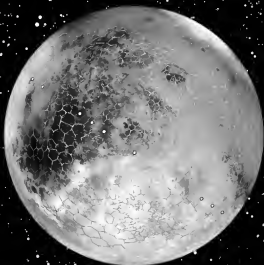
THIS "NEW THIRD REICH" SEEMS TO BE A NATIONALIST NEO-NAZI RELIGIOUS CULT. THE DETAILS ARE UNCLEAR...

...BUT WE CANNOT UNDER-ESTIMATE THE DANGER.

Mars



Mars: fourth planet from the sun
Radius at equator: 3397 km
Period of rotation: 1.025 days
Period of revolution: 686.98 days



A planet with the oldest history of settlers. The first emigration to Mars occurred by ES 53. After the Geo Catastrophe, construction of a full-scale colony began in ES 235, but ease of emigration and a comparatively hospitable environment led to oversettling—and a prolonged civil war. The planet remains divided to this day. Making space access difficult, more than 80% of the surface is covered by a canopy that is self-repaired by nanomachines. Squabbles erupt over control of orbiting mirror satellites that supplement the insufficient sunlight, but the atmosphere is breathable.

Four roughly divided groups currently vie for supremacy:

MRH (Mars Republik Heer): Mars Republic Army: funded by République Vénus to unify Mars and make it join the République.

**MFB (Mars Front der Befreiten): funded by the Jupiter Union to unify Mars and make it join the Union.

Mars Kingdom Parliament: LADDER-spearheaded attempt at constitutional monarchy.

Army of the New Third Reich: an emergent group calling itself the "Last Battalion" that aims to unify Mars, resurrect the Third Reich, and conquer the entire galaxy.



Olympus Spaceport, built in a caldera on Olympus Mons, largest mountain on Mars.







NOW
WE SEE
YOUR
FANGS!

WE MUSTN'T
DAMAGE THE
PORT!
SEND AID TO THE
LOCAL FORCES—
PUT THEM TO
USE!

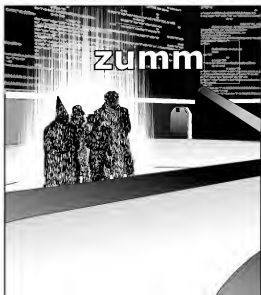


SEND THE
UNION'S
SPACE
FLEET TO
BOMB
THEM!



...OF
INVITING A
SPECIAL
GUEST TO
WEIGH IN
ON THIS
MATTER.

I'VE
TAKEN
THE
LIBERTY...



zumm

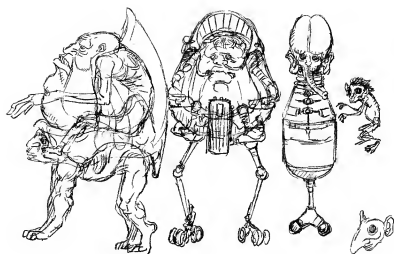


COME
IN!



...OF THE
MARS
KINGDOM
PARLIAMENT!

THE
NEW
QUEEN
LIMEIRA...





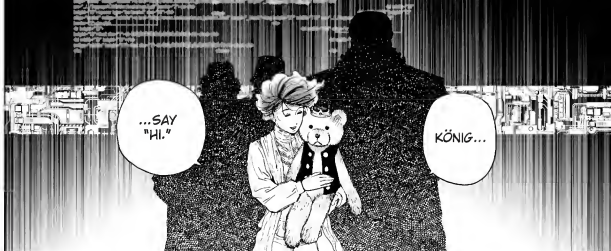
PHASE 16

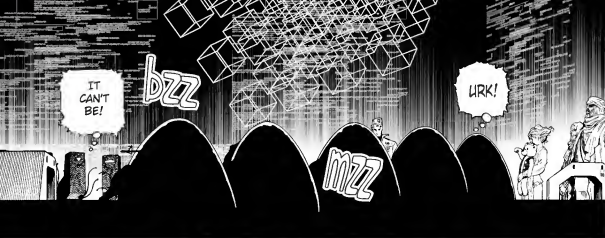
I Will Put This World Right

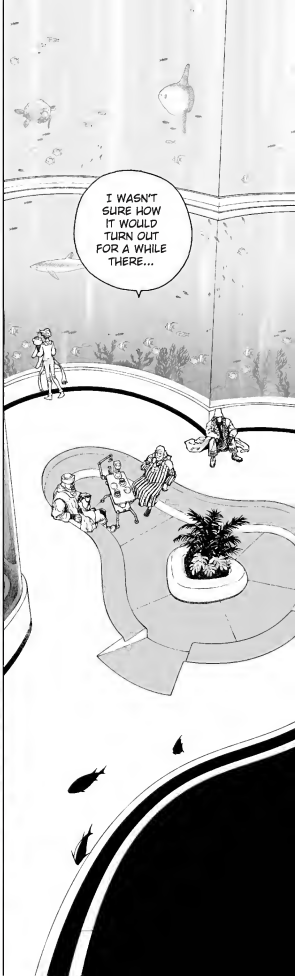
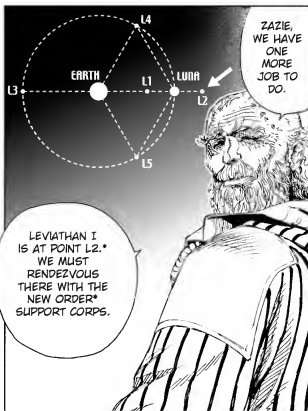
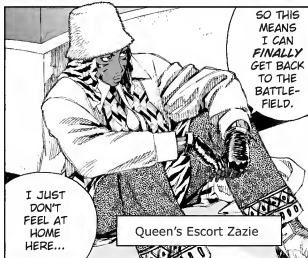


Mars Kingdom Parliament's Queen Limeira





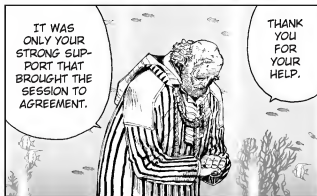






ARE
THEY
ALL
REAL,
JO?

GOSH, LOOK AT
ALL THESE
FISH! I'VE
ONLY EVER
SEEN THEM IN
BOOKS!

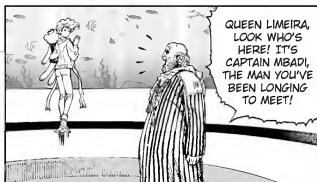


IT WAS
ONLY YOUR
STRONG SUP-
PORT THAT
BROUGHT THE
SESSION TO
AGREEMENT.

THANK
YOU
FOR
YOUR
HELP.



I ONLY
DID MY
DUTY.



QUEEN LIMEIRA,
LOOK WHO'S
HERE! IT'S
CAPTAIN MBADI,
THE MAN YOU'VE
BEEN LONGING
TO MEET!



YES,
THEY ARE
ALL REAL,
LIVE
FISH.

AH,
MR.
MBADI.

*Point L2: One of the five Lagrange points in the Lunar system.

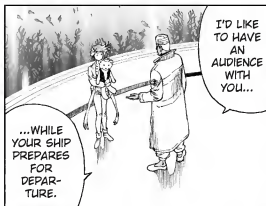
*NEW ORDER: LADDER's interplanetary keepers of the peace, under the command of Aga Mbadi.



DO YOU
LIKE THE
AQUARIUM?



OH,
MY.



...WHILE
YOUR SHIP
PREPARES
FOR DEPAR-
TURE.

I'D LIKE
TO HAVE
AN
AUDIENCE
WITH YOU...



DON'T
BE
RUDE,
KÖNIG.

He's not
like the
guy on
TV!



AS
YOU
WISH.

You
don't
mind if
I come
along?

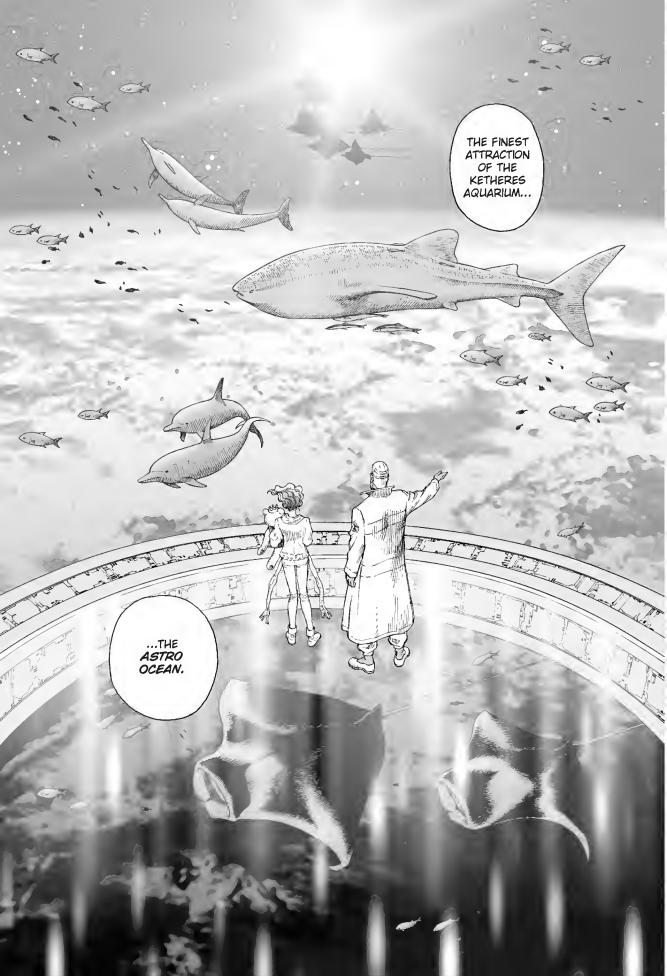


I'VE
GOT
KÖNIG
WITH
ME.



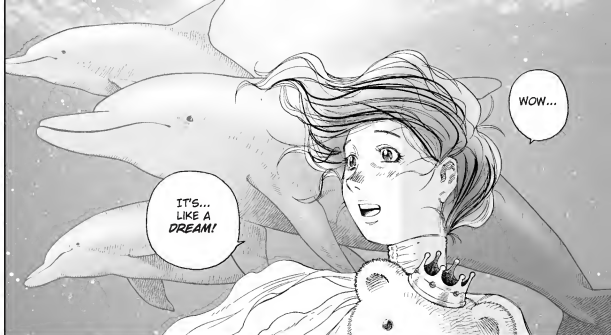
YOUR
MAJESTY...

DON'T
WORRY,
ZAZIE.



THE FINEST
ATTRACTION
OF THE
KETHERES
AQUARIUM...

...THE
ASTRO
OCEAN.



WOW...

IT'S...
LIKE A
DREAM!



I WOULD
LIKE YOU TO
TRUST THAT
THESE ARE
MY ONLY
GOALS.

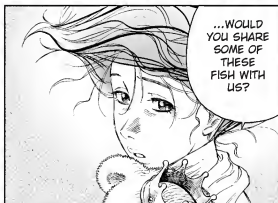


TO FORGE
TRUE
PEACE
AND ORDER
IN THE
UNIVERSE
...



SHE'S
LIKE A
CHILD.

HEH...



...WOULD
YOU SHARE
SOME OF
THESE
FISH WITH
US?

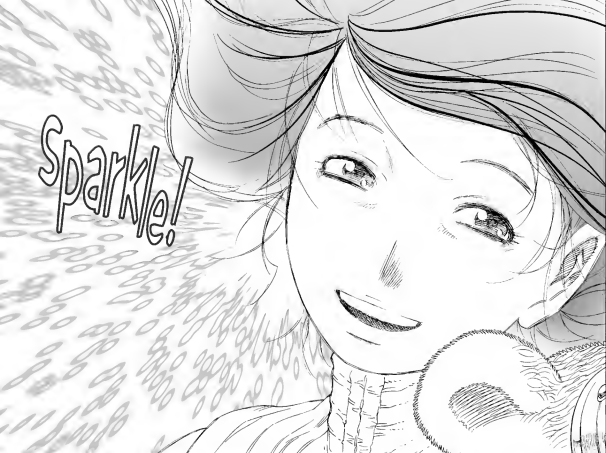


OF
COURSE.



...AND THE
TERRAFOR-
MING IS
COMPLETE,
IF WE
CREATE AN
OCEAN OF
OUR OWN...

ONE DAY...
WHEN
PEACE
RETURNS
TO
MARS...

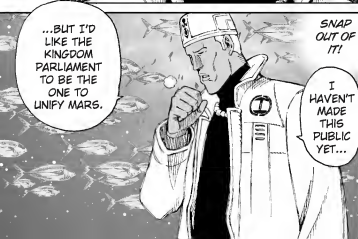


♡ THAT'S
A
PROM-
ISE!



ALMOST
MAKES
ME
FORGET
WHO I
AM...

SUCH A
SWEET
SMILE.



...BUT I'D
LIKE THE
KINGDOM
PARLIAMENT
TO BE THE
ONE TO
UNIFY MARS.

SNAP
OUT OF
IT!

I
HAVEN'T
MADE
THIS
PUBLIC
YET...





*MRH: Mars Republik Heer (Mars Republic Army)

*MFB: Mars Front der Befreien (Mars Liberation Front)



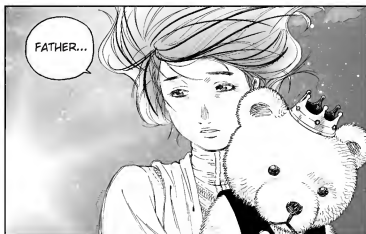
QUEEN
LIMEIRA
...

IF THERE WERE
SOME WAY FOR
YOUR FATHER TO
RISE FROM THE
ASHES, PER-
HAPS EVEN YOU
WOULD...

I BELIEVE IT
IS WRONG TO
FORCE EVERY-
ONE TO BE THAT
STRONG. DON'T
YOU AGREE?



FATHER...



THE NATURE
OF LIFE AND
DEATH IS
TOO WEIGHTY
A BURDEN
FOR A MERE
HUMAN TO
BEAR...

FORGIVE ME.
I GOT CAR-
RIED AWAY
AND WENT
TOO FAR.



HOWEVER...
THAT IS PRECISELY
WHY WE BELIEVE
THAT PLACING
OURSELVES INTO
THE AGE-OLD CYCLE
IS, IN THE TRUEST
SENSE, "LIFE."

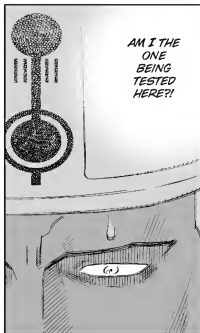
NO,
IT'S ALL
RIGHT.

Not
nice!



...BUT MY
FATHER
LIVES ON IN
MY HEART.

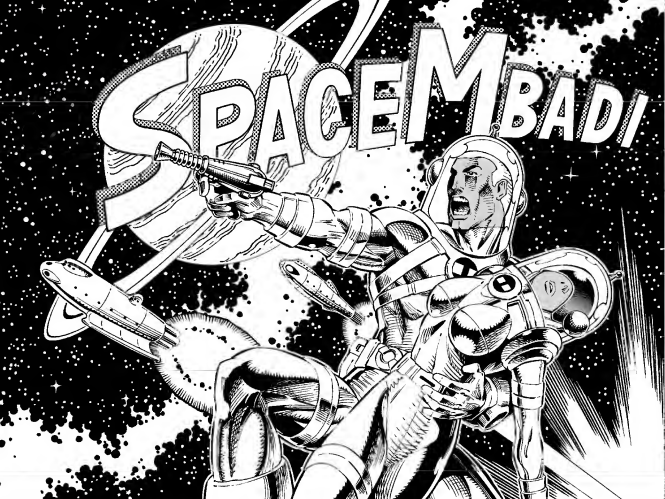
IT MAY
BE A
CLICHÉ...



A NAÏVE
CHILD ONE
MOMENT,
AN ASTUTE
ORATOR THE
NEXT...

SUCH AN
INSCRU-
TABLE
GIRL.





TV series "Space Mbadi"

Produced by Vesta Studios. 156 episodes (and a dozen TV specials) of this epic adventure aired between ES 543 and 556. Based on the 25-volume series "Space Hero Mbadi," by bestselling novelist (and Ceres resident) Oleg Zaccagni, the action-packed drama follows ORDER, the interplanetary investigative team, from its creation to its demise.



Captain Mbadi
Roy Nars



Revell
W. Conant



1st Officer Chandler
V. Manabendra



Lakshmi
N. Tripathi



Dr. Maurois
J. Cugnot



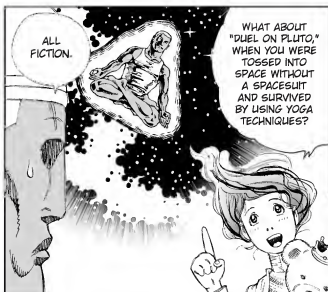
Yakovlev 44
(voice of) A. Volgin



Martian Warrior Menzel
G. Helder



Dr. Vares
K. T. Conrad





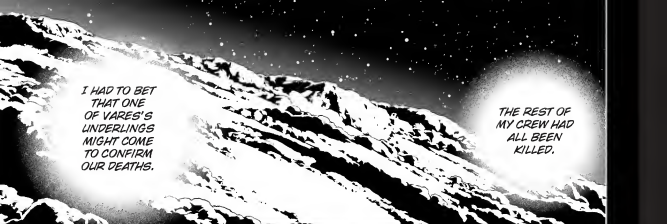


CHARON, THE
MOON OF PLUTO,
HUNG OVER US
AS IF IT COULD
DROP FROM THE
SKY AT ANY
MOMENT.



AND WE
WERE ALONE,
THE ONLY TWO
LEFT.

METHANE
SNOW FELL
UPON THE
-230° C
DUST...



I HAD TO BET
THAT ONE
OF VARES'S
UNDERLINGS
MIGHT COME
TO CONFIRM
OUR DEATHS.

THE REST OF
MY CREW HAD
ALL BEEN
KILLED.



WITH YOGA
TECHNIQUES,
I LOWERED MY
BREATHING AND
HEART RATES AND
ENTERED A
NEAR-DEATH
STATE.

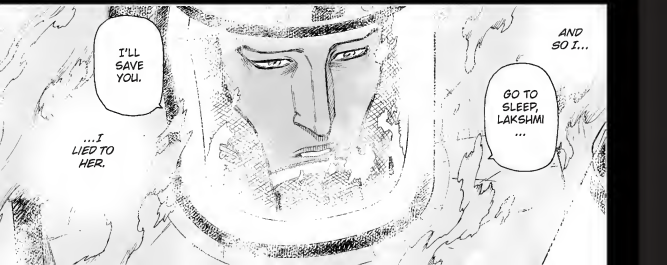
I CUT ALL
POWER TO OUR
SPACESUITS
EXCEPT FOR
MINIMAL HEAT
SO AS TO
CONSERVE THE
BATTERIES...



BUT
LAKSHMI
HADN'T
MASTERED
THAT
TECHNIQUE.

I'M
COLD...

I'M
COLD,
CAP-
TAIN...



I'LL
SAVE
YOU.

...I
LIED TO
HER.

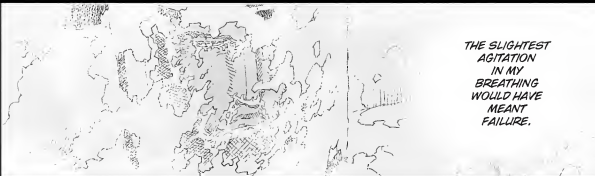
AND
SO I...

GO TO
SLEEP,
LAKSHMI
...



*I LIED
TO HER.*

*SHE BELIEVED
WHAT I TOLD HER
COMPLETELY,
AND DRIFTED
GENTLY TO
SLEEP, LIKE A
BABY.*



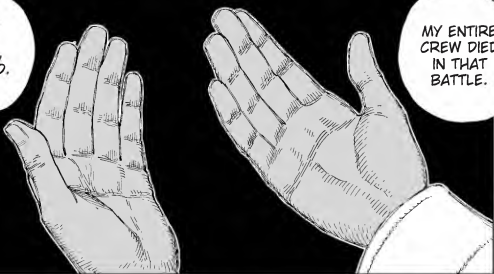
*THE SLIGHTEST
AGITATION
IN MY
BREATHING
WOULD HAVE
MEANT
FAILURE.*

*...AS THE
WARMTH
SLOWLY FADED
FROM
LAKSHMI'S
BODY...*



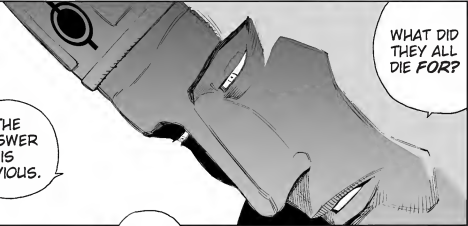
*IN THAT
MOMENT...*

*...THE SOUL OF
THE MAN WHO
LOVED HER
DIED WITH HER.*



ONLY I,
THEIR
CAPTAIN,
SURVIVED.

MY ENTIRE
CREW DIED
IN THAT
BATTLE.



THE
ANSWER
IS
OBLIVIOUS.

WHAT DID
THEY ALL
DIE FOR?



EVERY
DECISION
I MADE
WAS
CORRECT!

AND
ABOUT THE
RESULTS...
I HAVE
NOT THE
SMALLEST
REGRET!

TO
BRING
ORDER TO
THE
WORLD!



THOSE
DAYS
ARE
LONG
PAST.

I NEVER
MEANT TO
OPEN OLD
WOUNDS!

Runny
makeup,
Limeira.



I'M
SO
SORRY!

sob

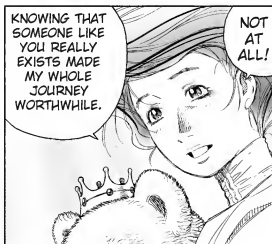
sob



I'M NOT
THE HERO
FROM TV...
I'M SORRY
TO LET YOU
DOWN.

I'VE NEVER
TOLD THAT
TO ANYONE
BEFORE.
WHY DID I
TELL YOU...
?

BUT
THIS IS
STRANGE
...

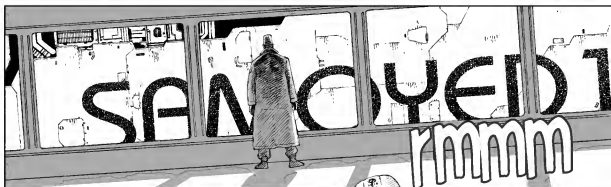
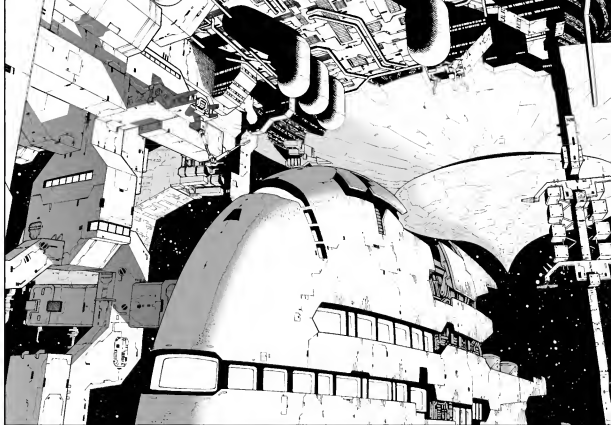


KNOWING THAT
SOMEONE LIKE
YOU REALLY
EXISTS MADE
MY WHOLE
JOURNEY
WORTHWHILE.

NOT
AT
ALL!



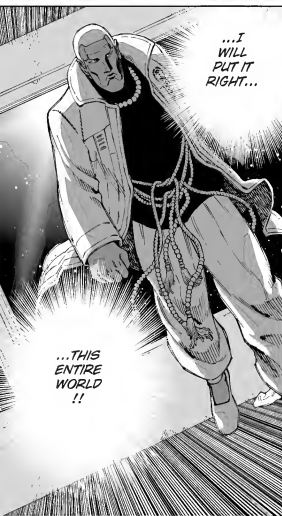






YOUR
MAJESTY
...

THE ONE WHO
ORDERED
YOUR
FATHER'S
ASSASSINA-
TION... WAS
ME!



...I
WILL
PUT IT
RIGHT...

...THIS
ENTIRE
WORLD
!!



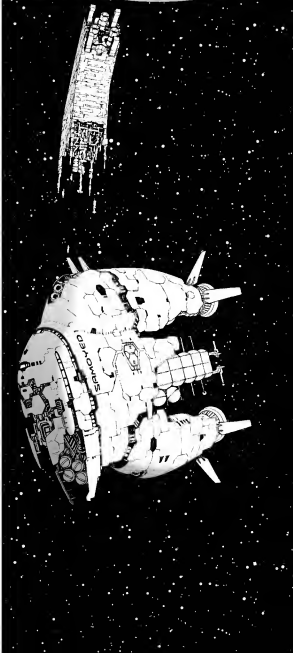
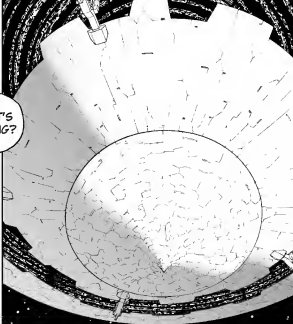
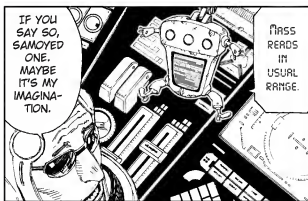
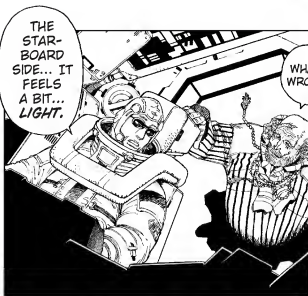
...I
SWEAR...

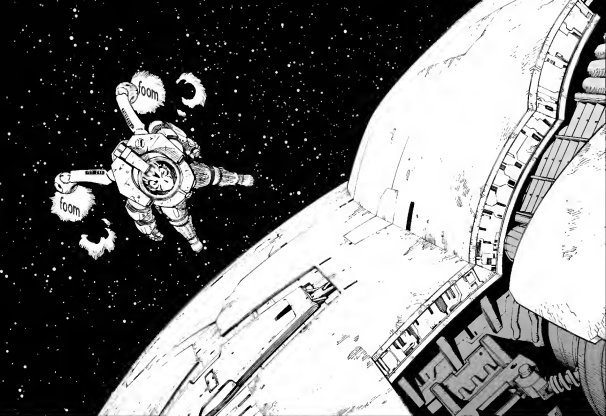
OH,
QUEEN
LIMEIRA!



fwwup



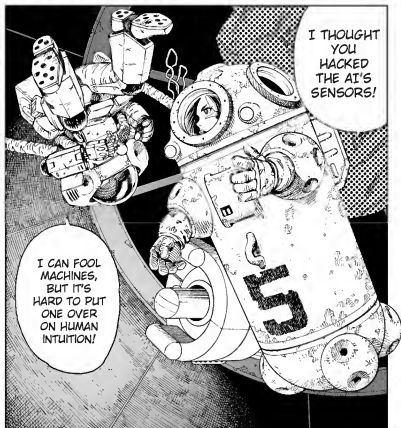




SOMEONE'S
COMING TO
CHECK ON
THINGS.



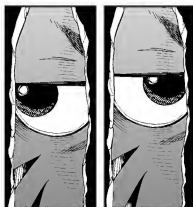
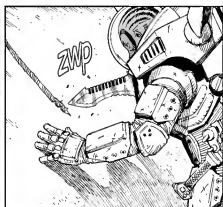
WE GOT
A PROBLEM.

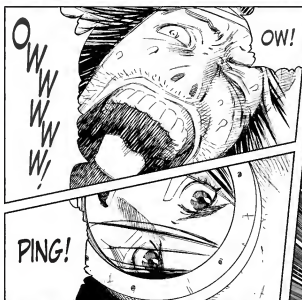


I THOUGHT
YOU
HACKED
THE AI'S
SENSORS!

I CAN FOOL
MACHINES,
BUT IT'S
HARD TO PUT
ONE OVER
ON HUMAN
INTUITION!



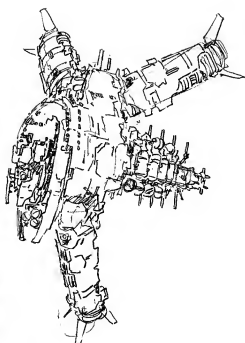






WHAT DO
WE HAVE
HERE?

LOOKS LIKE
I'VE CAUGHT
SOME
STOWAWAYS!



PHASE 17
**And When
Their Day
Comes...**







I'LL
DISPOSE
OF THEM.

I'VE
FOUND
SOME
STOW-
AWAYS.



PING,
YOU
FOOL!



ALITA,
THIS IS
IT. LET'S
SURREN-
DER.



THIS ISN'T
SOMEONE
WE CAN
FOOL OR
BUY OFF!

A REAL
MARTIAN
WAR-
RIOR...
A PRO-
FES-
SIONAL
KILLER!



LEAVE
THIS TO
ME!



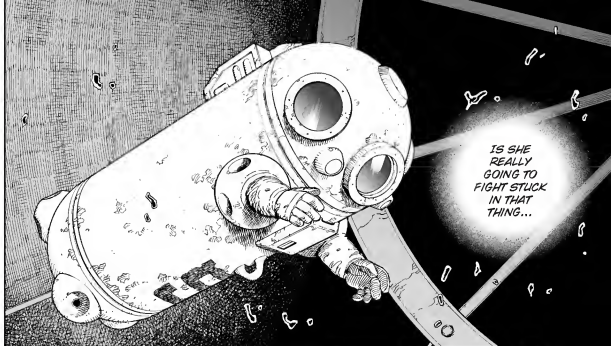
THAT'S
RIGHT,
ALITA'S
FROM
MARS
TOO...

EVEN
SO...

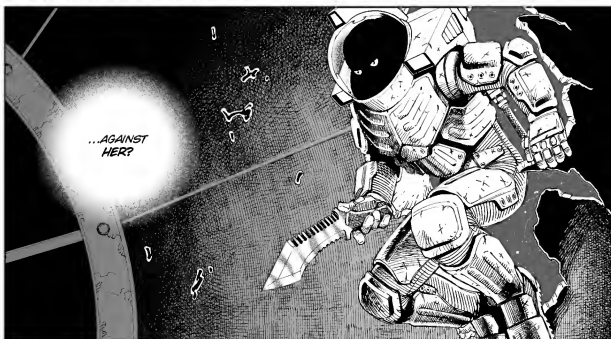


GO OUT
THERE WITH
A WHITE FLAG
AND SHE'LL
TEAR YOU IN
HALF!

CAN'T
YOU SEE
IT IN HER
EYES?



IS SHE
REALLY
GOING TO
FIGHT STUCK
IN THAT
THING...



...AGAINST
HER?

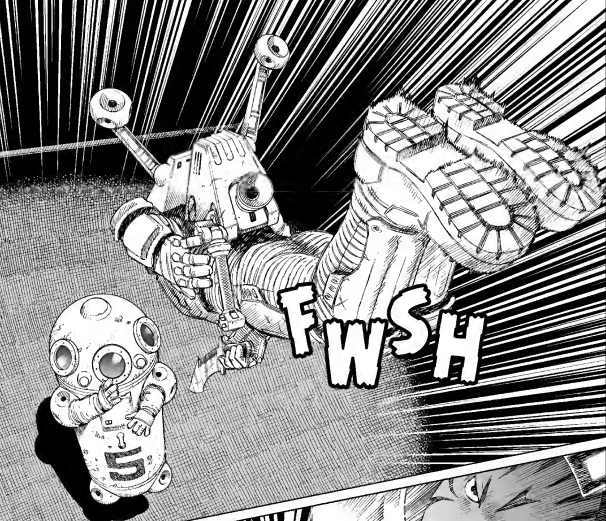


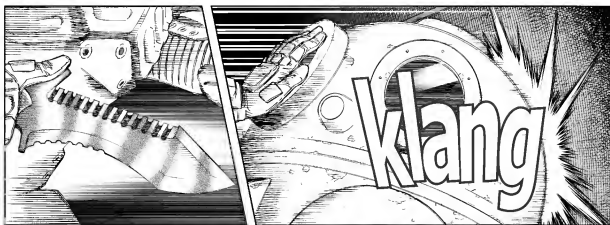
DAMN.
I-I'M
PASSING
OUT...

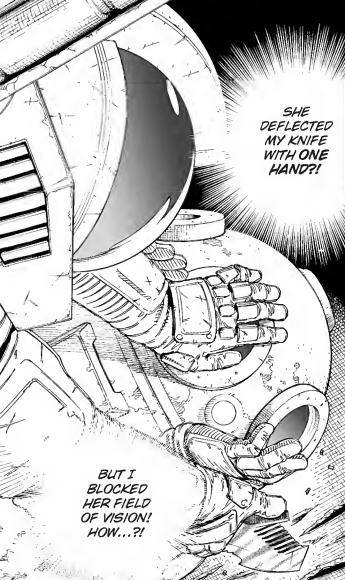
Boss!



AM I THE
ONLY ONE
WHO CAN
SEE SHE
HASN'T
GOT A
PRAYER?

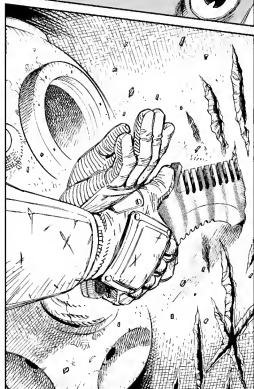






*SHE
DEFLECTED
MY KNIFE
WITH ONE
HAND?!*

*BUT I
BLOCKED
HER FIELD
OF VISION!
HOW...?!*



FWAP



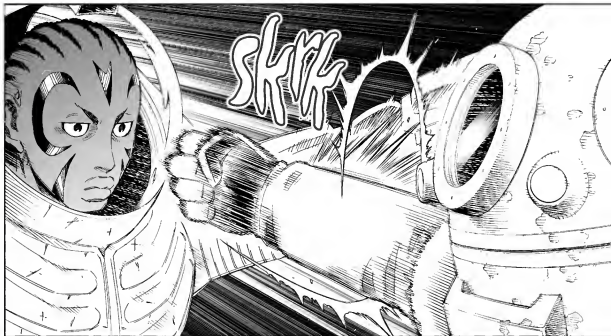
*TING JING...
THE CHI-
NESE MAR-
TIAL ART OF
LISTENING!*

*SHE READ MY
MOVEMENTS
THROUGH
THE HAND
I TOUCHED
HER WITH!*



BUT THIS
IS A
MATTER OF
SURVIVAL!

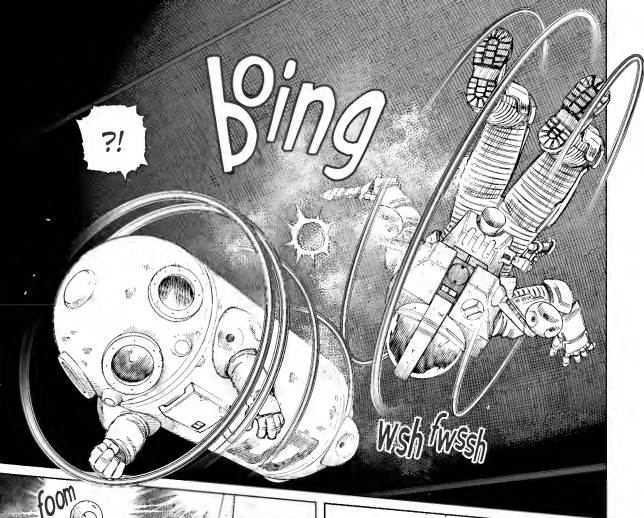
I'VE GOT
NOTHING
AGAINST
YOU...



skrk



tnk



I BET YOU'VE
TRAINED LONG
AND HARD
WITH GRAVITY,
BUT OUT HERE
YOU'RE AN
AMATEUR.

I KNEW
IT.

OH YEAH...
IN A ZERO
GRAVITY STATE,
THERE'S NO
RESISTANCE!
THE LAWS OF
ACTION AND
REACTION
TRANSLATE
DIRECTLY...



N-NO
EFFECT
AT
ALL?!



THAT
TRAINING
I GOT
SO LONG
AGO...

TRY TO
RE-
MEM-
BER!





DON'T
FORGET
THE
BASICS!



STRIKES
AND TAI-
SABAKI
MOVES
THAT ARE
EFFECTIVE
AT ZERO
GRAVITY...

...ARE AT
THE HEART
OF EVERY
FUNDAMEN-
TAL
**PANZER
KUNST**
TECHNIQUE!



NOW
LISTEN
UP!



SEIZE PART
OF YOUR
OPPONENT'S
BODY, THEN
STRIKE!

WUD

WATCH!

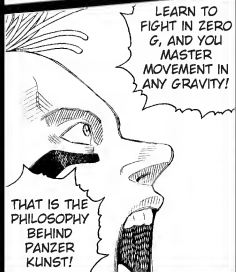


IF HE
GRABS
YOU...



PHYSI-
CALLY, IT'S
IDEAL TO
TARGET HIS
CENTER OF
GRAVITY...

...BUT THAT
MAKES
YOUR FIST'S
TRAJECTORY
EASY TO
READ!



LEARN TO
FIGHT IN ZERO
G, AND YOU
MASTER
MOVEMENT IN
ANY GRAVITY!

THAT IS THE
PHILOSOPHY
BEHIND
PANZER
KUNST!



...THROW
HIM OFF
BALANCE!

VICTORY
DEPENDS ON
TACTICAL
USE OF
CONTACT
POINTS.





WHOSE
DOG ARE
YOU?

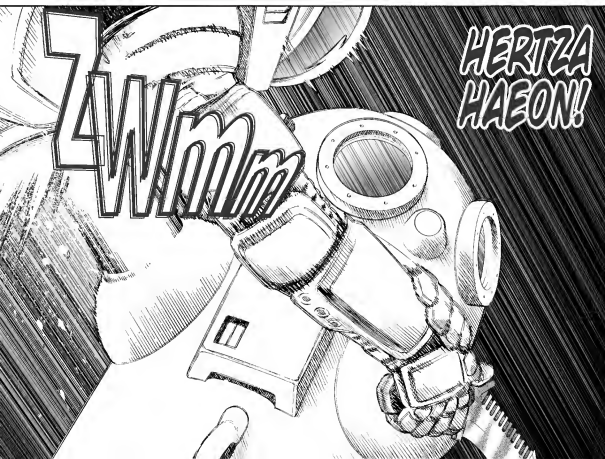
YOU'RE
GOOD.



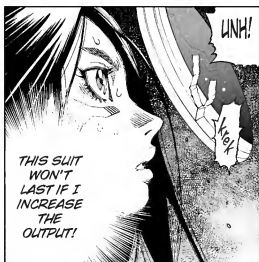
?!

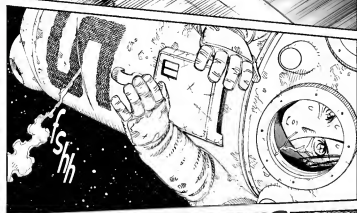


PANZER
KUNST.



HERTZA
HAEON!







BUT HER
FIGHT-
ING STYLE
MAKES
SENSE IN
SPACE...

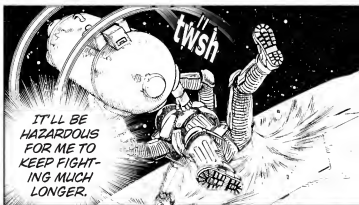
...INSTEAD
OF ATTACKING
ME, SHE'S
ATTACKING
THE SUIT!

UNH!
SHE SURE
IS PUSHY!

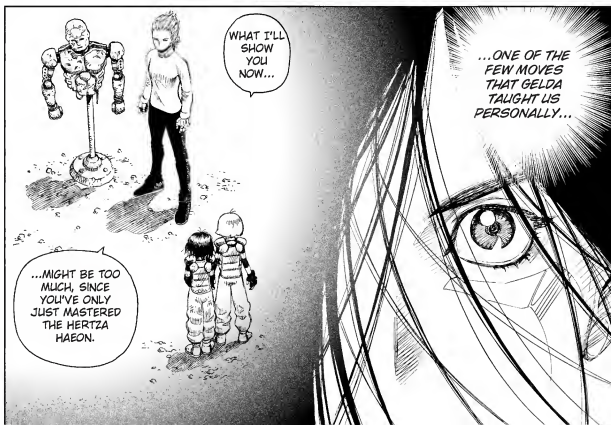


THAT'S
RIGHT!

MAYBE NOW
I'M GOOD
ENOUGH TO
PULL THAT
OFF...



IT'LL BE
HAZARDOUS
FOR ME TO
KEEP FIGHT-
ING MUCH
LONGER.



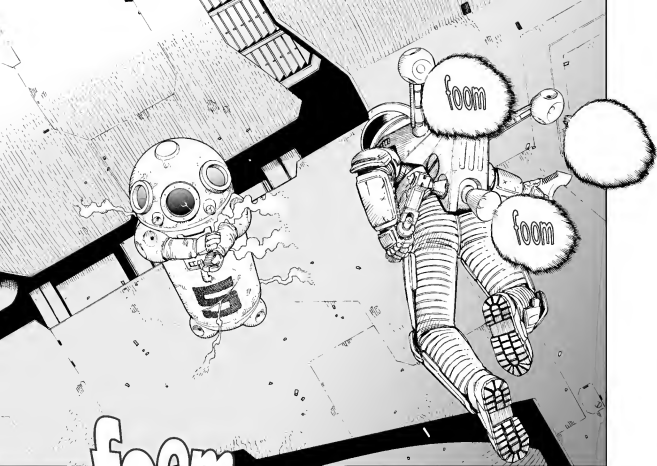
WHAT I'LL
SHOW
YOU
NOW...

...MIGHT BE TOO
MUCH, SINCE
YOU'VE ONLY
JUST MASTERED
THE HERTZA
HAEON.

...ONE OF THE
FEW MOVES
THAT GELDA
TAUGHT US
PERSONALLY...







I'LL END
IT WITH
THIS
ATTACK!



WHAT'S
THAT
SOUND?

yning

HMM?



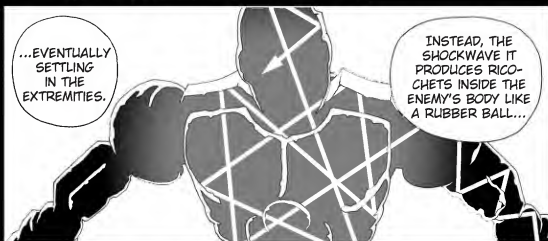
BUT MY
EARS
ARE
RINGING
...?

THERE WAS
NO CONTACT,
SO IT WASN'T
AN OSCILLA-
TION PUNCH...

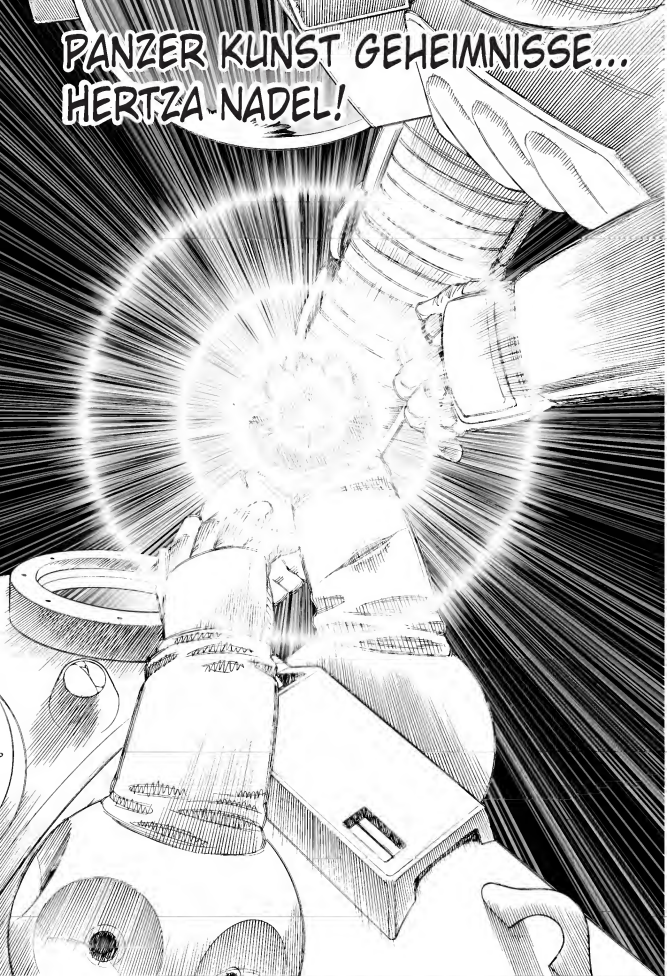


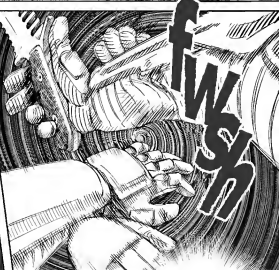
AND I DON'T
HAVE MUCH
THRUSTER
FUEL LEFT...

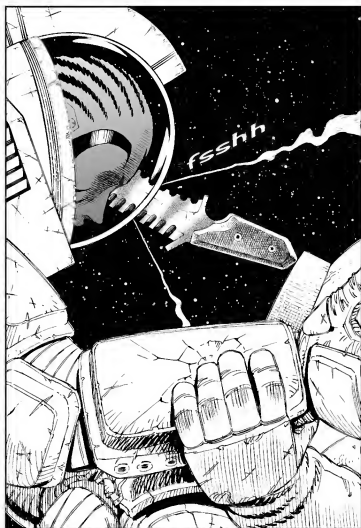
ANYWAY,
HER
SUIT'S
ABOUT
TO COME
APART!

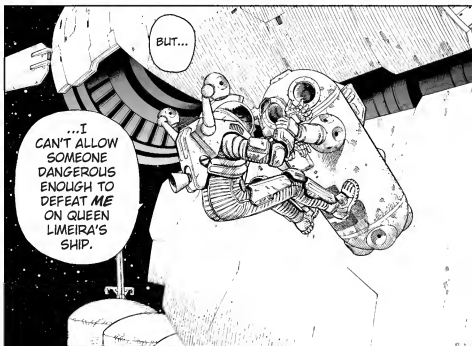
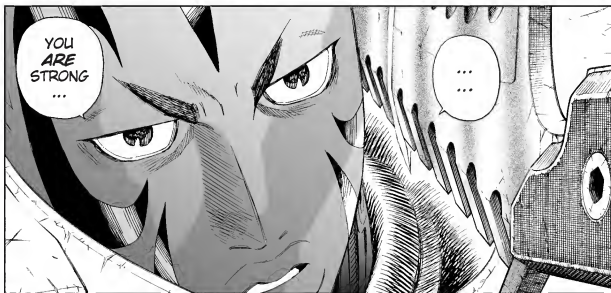
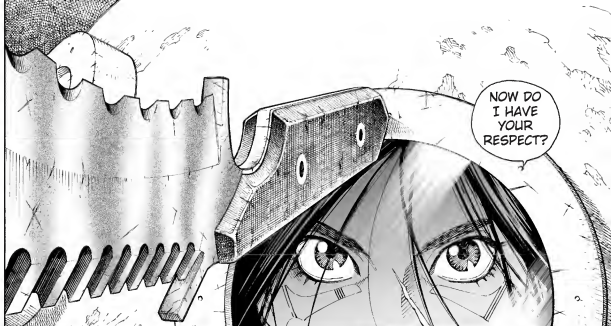


PANZER KUNST GEHEIMNISSE...
HERTZA NADEL!











...COMING
TO SERVE
YOU...

...FINALLY
BROUGHT
MEANING TO
MY LIFE.



A LIFE IS
NOTHING BUT A
TARGET.

ON THE
BATTLEFIELD...



EVEN THE
GREATEST
WARRIORS
WILL DIE
ONE DAY.



NO MATTER
HOW GOOD
WE GET AT
KILLING...

WILL WE BE
SIMPLY
FORGOTTEN,
LIKE THE
NAMES OF THE
NUMBERLESS
RANK AND FILE?



AND WHAT
WILL WE
LEAVE BEHIND
WHEN THAT
TIME COMES?

AND I WILL
PROTECT
THE FUTURE
YOU'RE
TRYING TO
CREATE.



THAT IS THE
MEANING
I'VE FOUND
FOR MY
LIFE.

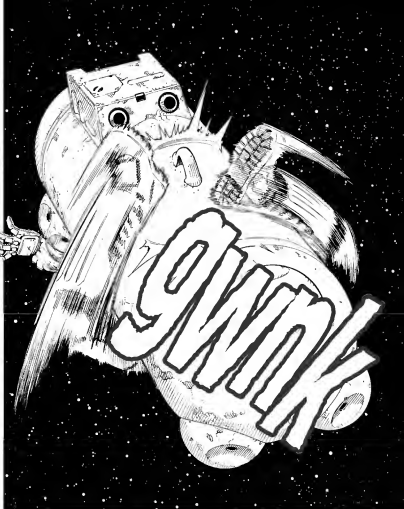
I WILL
PROTECT
YOU...

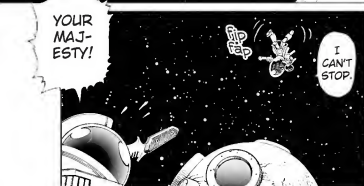
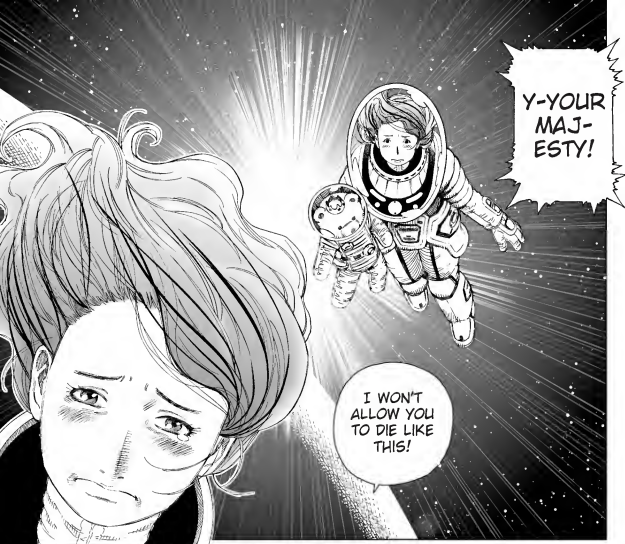


hee!

YOUR
MAJESTY
...



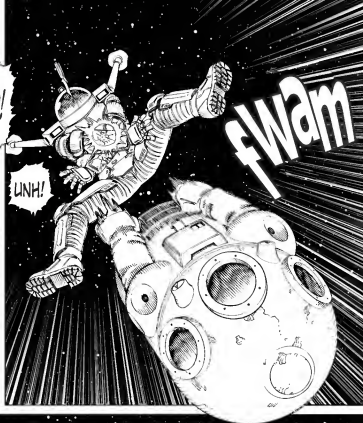
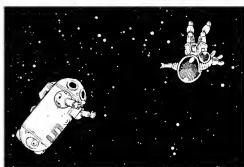






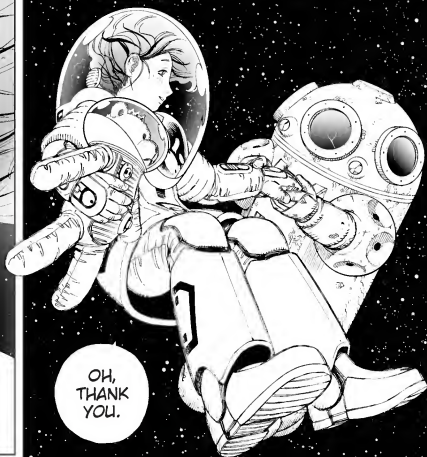
STOP!

UNH!



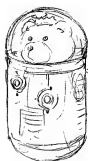
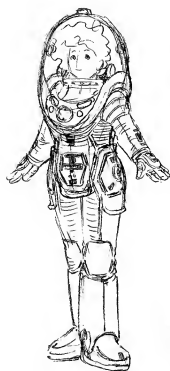
I'M GLAD.

YOU'RE NOT A BAD PERSON AT ALL.



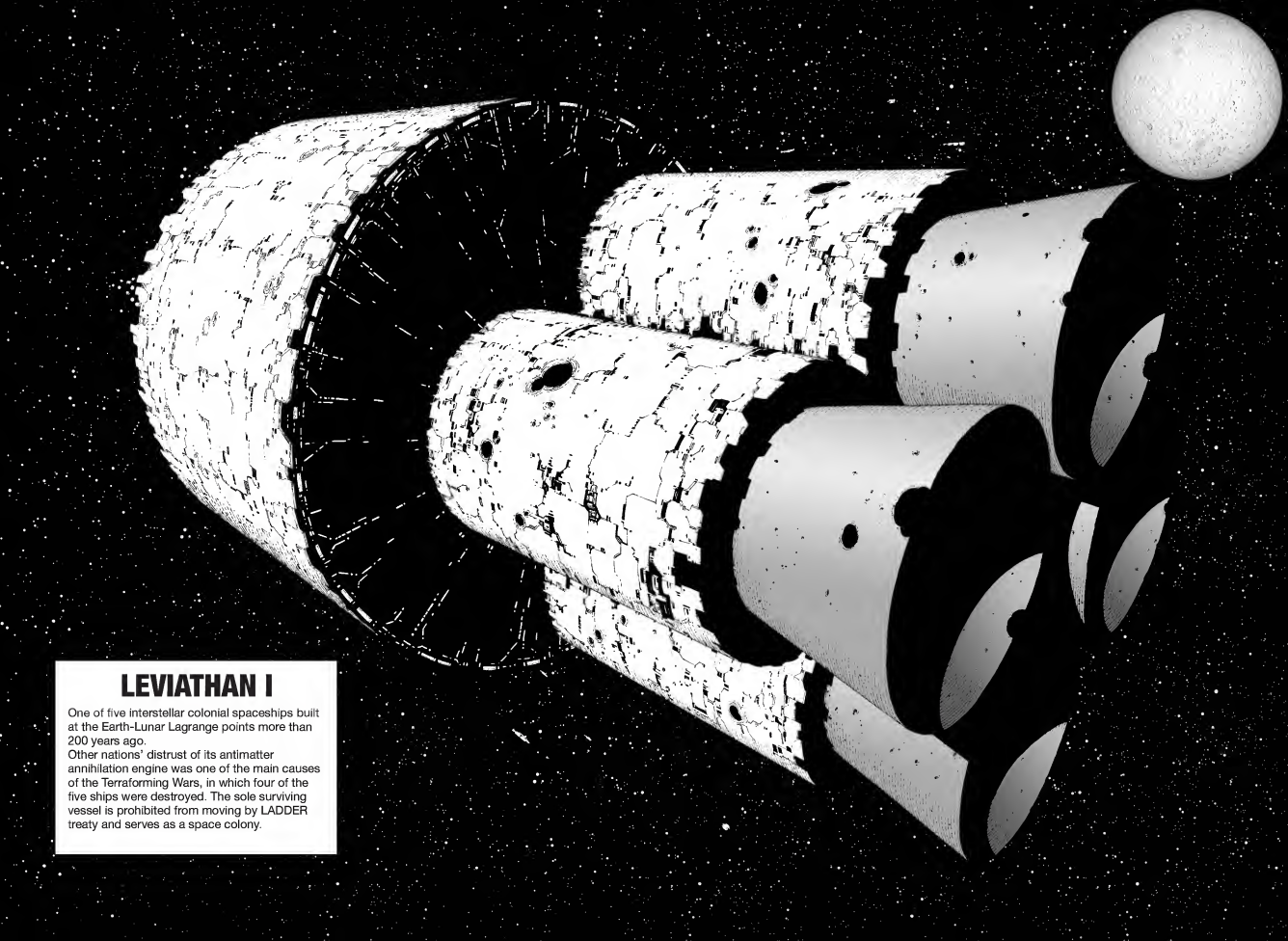
OH, THANK YOU.





PHASE 18
**One
Hundred
Years...!**



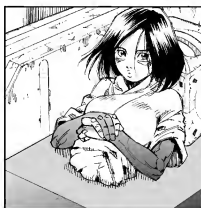


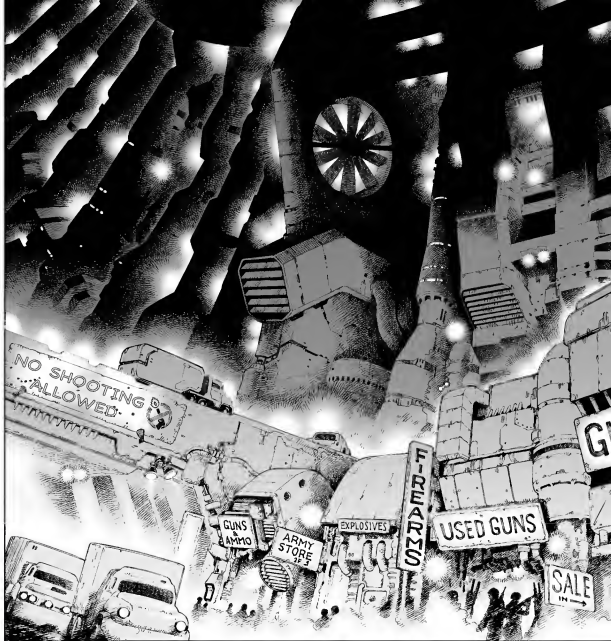
LEVIATHAN I

One of five interstellar colonial spaceships built at the Earth-Lunar Lagrange points more than 200 years ago.

Other nations' distrust of its antimatter annihilation engine was one of the main causes of the Terraforming Wars, in which four of the five ships were destroyed. The sole surviving vessel is prohibited from moving by LADDER treaty and serves as a space colony.









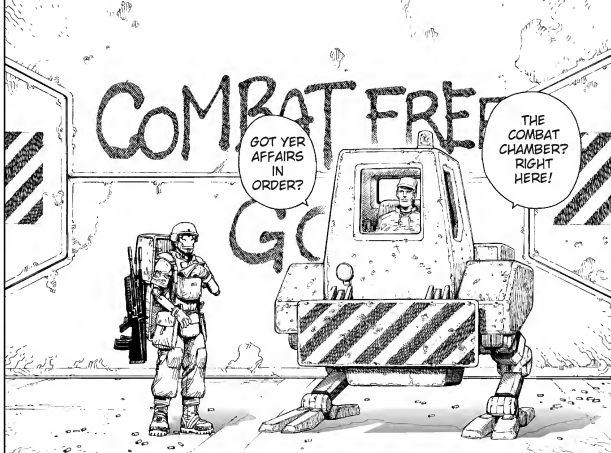
THEY'VE
OPENED UP THE
CENTRIFUGAL
GRAVITY DISTRICT
TO WAR GAMES...
BRINGS IN
FOREIGN
CASH.

IT MAY BE
PART OF THE
FEDERATION,
BUT MOST
FOLKS HERE
ARE FOREIGN,
WITH NO
UNANIMOUS
TO DEAL
WITH.

I'VE GOT
A FEW
ERRANDS
TO RUN...

WHERE
ARE WE
OFF TO
NEXT?

HUH.
SO...

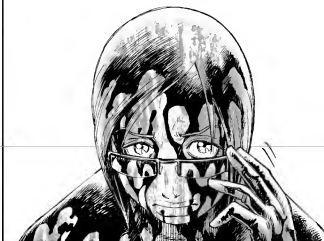


*Megasol: A unit of currency used in the inner planets.





DOCTOR!
THAT'S THE
HEALTHY
LEG!



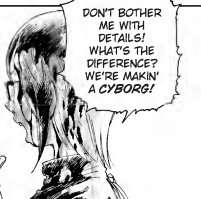
BEEN
A
WHILE...



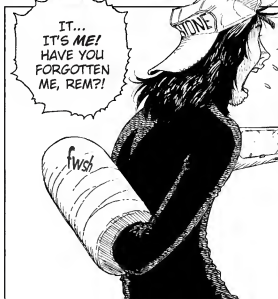
UM...
YOU
GOT A
MINUTE?



plop



DON'T BOTHER
ME WITH
DETAILS!
WHAT'S THE
DIFFERENCE?
WE'RE MAKIN'
A CYBORG!



IT...
IT'S ME!
HAVE YOU
FORGOTTEN
ME, REM?!



HUH?! YOU
WANT THAT
TAKEN OFF
TOO?!



HAH!
A BIT
LATE FOR
THAT!

COULD
WE... LET
BYGONES
BE BY-
GONES?



WHAT
DO YOU
WANT,
PING
WU?



YOU...
YOU
SURE
HAVE
CHANGED...

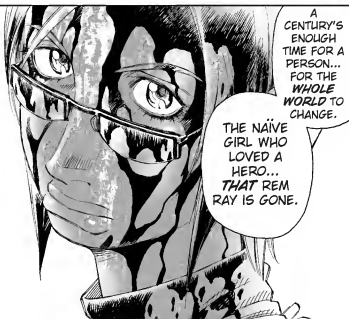


DOCTOR!
WHAT
ABOUT THE
ANAE-
THESIA?!

YOU
KNOW IT'S
BEEN A
HUNDRED
YEARS?!

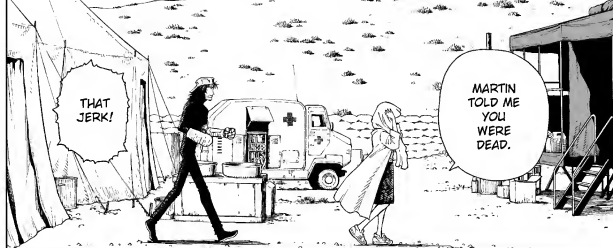


TODAY'S
REM RAY IS
A SURGEON,
SPECIALIZING
IN SAWING
THINGS OFF.



A
CENTURY'S
ENOUGH
TIME FOR A
PERSON...
FOR THE
WHOLE
WORLD TO
CHANGE.

THE NAÏVE
GIRL WHO
LOVED A
HERO...
THAT REM
RAY IS GONE.



THAT
JERK!

MARTIN
TOLD ME
YOU
WERE
DEAD.



ARE YOU
REALLY
ALIVE?



THAT
SO?

chk



...ALIVE
AND
WELL!

BUT
LOOK!
HERE I
AM...



I CAN
TELL YOU,
YOU'RE NOT
TRULY ALIVE
WITHOUT...

SOMEONE
WHO'LL
SHARE
YOUR JOY
AND
SORROW.

IF YOU THINK
YOU'RE ALIVE JUST
BECAUSE YOUR
HEART'S BEATING
AND YOU'RE
STILL WANDERING
AROUND, YOU'RE
WRONG.

I DON'T
GET
WHAT
YOU
MEAN...

.....

YOU'VE
GOT A
CUTE
FRIEND
RIDING
WITH
YOU.

LONGEVITY
DOESN'T
CURE
STUPIDITY.

fuu

FINE.

I GET
THE
PICTURE.

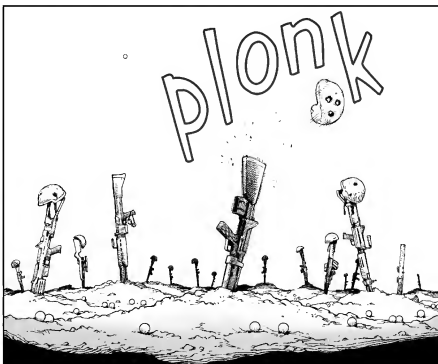
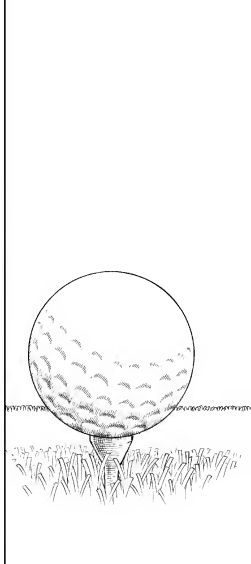
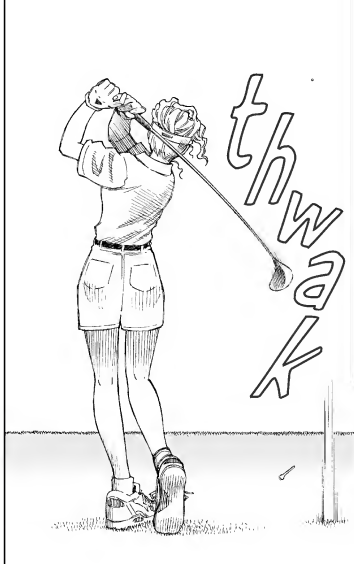
FINE.

I
KNOW.

DON'T FALL
IN LOVE
WITH HIM.
NOTHING
GOOD'LL
COME OF
IT.

I'LL
TAKE
YOU.
OLD
TIME'S
SAKE...

GOING
TO SEE
MARTIN,
RIGHT?





**Coriolis force: An inertial force that occurs within a rotating frame of reference. Described by French engineer Gaspard-Gustave Coriolis (1792-1843) in 1835. The radius of a space colony relying on centrifugal gravity is far smaller than a planet, so the Coriolis force is more pronounced.*

SO YOU'RE
THE MAIN
COMMODITIES
DISTRIBUTOR
IN LEVIATHAN I
NOW? YOU SURE
MADE IT BIG.

YUP!
♡

GOD!
I'VE
MISSED
YOU SO
MUCH!

P...
PING?!

YOU'RE
ALIVE?!

gwoom

sob!

...THIS
LITTLE
THING?

tik
tak

OH...

HM?

OH! PING,
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO YOUR
HAND?!

I GOT IT
THANKS
TO YOU
BETRAYING
ME,
DUMBASS!

ka

BLA
M





TOGETHER,
THERE WAS NO
SECURITY
SYSTEM THEY
COULDN'T
CRACK.

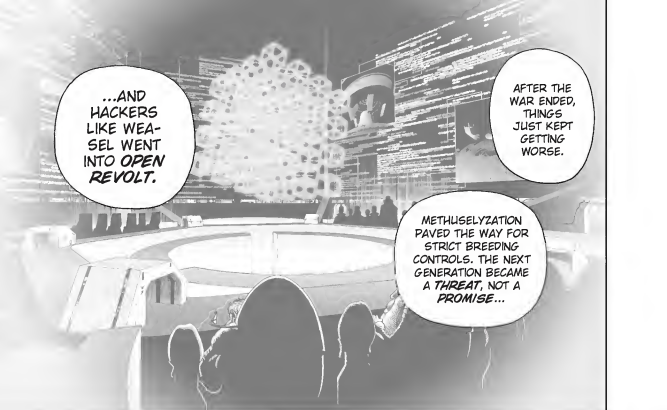
PING WAS
THE
WEASEL.
MARTIN WAS
THE SKUNK.

WASN'T A
HACKER ALIVE
WHO DIDN'T
FOLLOW THE
WEASEL'S
EXPLOITS!

HE WAS A
SUPERSTAR
IN THE
UNDERWORLD.

SURE, THEY'D
PILFER MONEY
FROM BANK
ACCOUNTS
EVERY NOW
AND AGAIN,
JUST TO GET
BY...

...BUT
THOSE
BOYS HAD
BIG
IDEALS.



...AND
HACKERS
LIKE WEAS-
SEL WENT
INTO OPEN
REVOLT.

AFTER THE
WAR ENDED,
THINGS
JUST KEPT
GETTING
WORSE.

METHUSELYZATION
PAVED THE WAY FOR
STRICT BREEDING
CONTROLS. THE NEXT
GENERATION BECAME
A *THREAT*, NOT A
PROMISE...



IT WAS
ALL
LIKE A
DREAM...

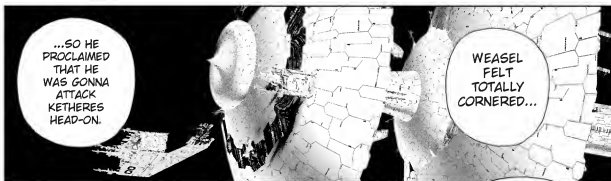
HE WAS
SO *COOL*
BACK
THEN!



HE STARTED
KILLING
OFF ALL OF
WEASEL'S
HACKER
BUDDIES,
ONE BY
ONE.

kink

...UNTIL ONE
DAY, AN ANTI-
HACKER CALLED
TRINIDAD
SHOWED UP AT
LADDER.



...SO HE
PROCLAIMED
THAT HE
WAS GONNA
ATTACK
KETHERES
HEAD-ON.

WEASEL
FELT
TOTALLY
CORNERED...

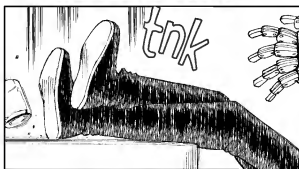
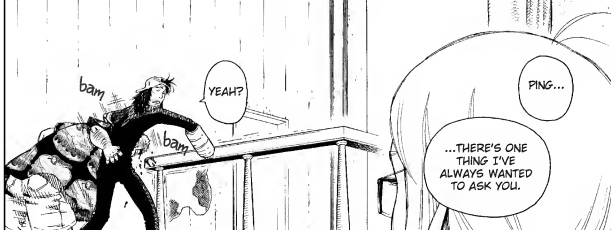


A ONE-
MAN COUP
D'ÉTAT!

EVEN AN
AMATEUR LIKE
ME COULD SEE
IT WAS
HOPELESS.

HE WANTED
TO FINISH OFF
TRINIDAD, HACK
INTO MELCHIZEDEK
AND TAKE OVER
LADDER.







THE
RIDICULOUS
PIPE DREAM OF
AN IMMATURE
LITTLE BOY!

FORGET
IT!

WHAT A
WASTE
OF
TIME!

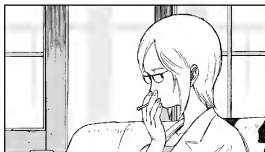
CHANGE
THE
WORLD?

PEOPLE
AREN'T
WORTH
SAVING!



THEN
I'LL
FORGET
IT.

I SEE...
OF
COURSE.

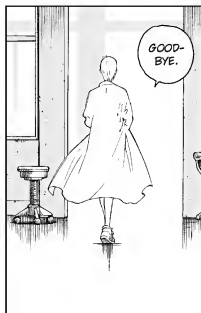


I'M AWW
WEEDY.

NO.
100!

WHAT'S
HER
PROB-
LEM?

...?



GOOD-
BYE.





FILL
'ER UP!
IT'S HIS
TREAT!

YEEK!
K!



ENOUGH
JUICE
THERE,
LITTLE
FELLA?

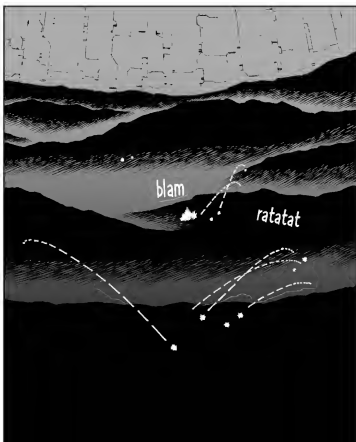
I WAS
ALMOST
BONE DRY!

ZZT

ZZLAK



THAT'S
RIGHT...



blam

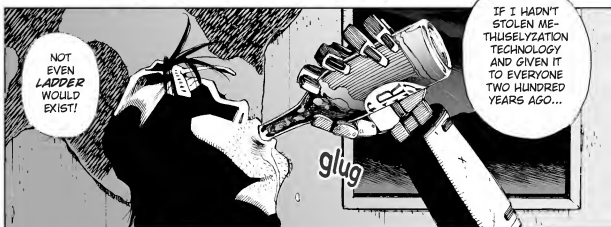
ratatat



IT'S AS IF
I CREATED
THIS WORLD
MYSELF!

WHEN
I THINK
ABOUT IT...

krk



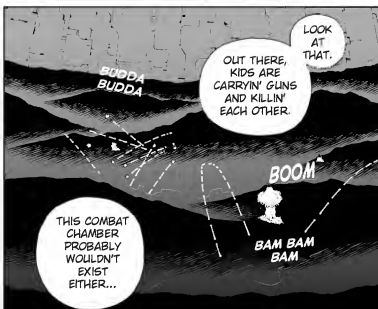
NOT
EVEN
LADDER
WOULD
EXIST!

IF I HADN'T
STOLEN ME-
THUSELYZATION
TECHNOLOGY
AND GIVEN IT
TO EVERYONE
TWO HUNDRED
YEARS AGO...

glug



YOU
WANNA
KNOW
WHAT I'M
TRYIN' TO
SAY?



LOOK
AT
THAT.

OUT THERE,
KIDS ARE
CARRYIN' GUNS
AND KILLIN'
EACH OTHER.

BUDDA
BUDDA

BOOM

BAM BAM
BAM

THIS COMBAT
CHAMBER
PROBABLY
WOULDN'T
EXIST
EITHER...







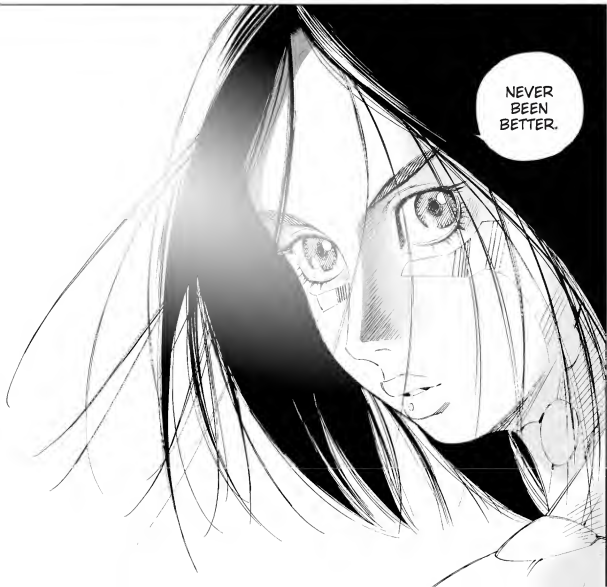




A black and white manga-style illustration of a man from the chest up. He has dark, messy hair and a wide, toothy grin. He is wearing a dark, long-sleeved shirt. His right arm is a mechanical prosthetic with a circular dial. A large, thick white bandage is wrapped around his head, covering his eyes and forehead. He is holding the bandage with his right hand.

HOW
DO YOU
FEEL?

WELL?



A black and white manga-style illustration of a woman's face in a close-up, slightly angled view. She has long, dark hair that falls over her face. Her eyes are large and expressive, looking towards the viewer. She has a slight smile. The background is dark.

NEVER
BEEN
BETTER.

BONUS!

THE STRUCTURE OF LEVIATHAN I

Total length 16 km. Construction began in the year 357 and ended in 377. One of five space colony ships, Leviathan I uses centrifugal force to create a livable space at the ship's center, sufficient for successive generations to be born during lengthy interstellar travel. Tipharex was first built as a prototype for just such an isolated society.

DESIGNATED FIGHTING AREAS

75% of the ship's center is used for war games. The Combat Chamber is broken up into 26 areas lettered from A to Z. There are three flags in each area, totaling 78 flags. To encourage heavy casualties, the administration assigns a per-flag bounty. Flags are replaced every three weeks.

THE VALUE OF LIFE

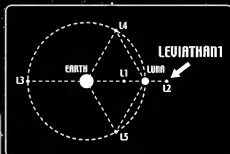
Since the spread of immortality technology, death can only occur by accident or violence. In space, the value of life varies. Indeed, some even place a higher value on death, recklessly putting their lives at risk. The Combat Chamber serves their needs—a release for the nihilistic tendencies of the population.

ENGINE AREAS

As first built, Leviathan I used a large-model reverse disintegration engine, fed by an anti-matter reaction. Capable of destroying an entire planet, these engines were banned and removed per the LADDER treaty. LADDER now houses its "NEW ORDER" base here.

THE BOW OF THE SHIP

Per the LADDER Treaty, leaving the station is prohibited. The Earth Orbital Federation created the "Leviathan Committee" (a.k.a. the Administration) to serve and protect the station's inhabitants.



ORIGIN OF THE NAME LEVIATHAN

Mentioned prominently in the Old Testament books of Job, Psalms, and Isaiah, the sea dragon Leviathan was the biggest and strongest beast God created.

"Nothing on earth is his equal—a creature without fear. He looks down on all that are haughty; he is king over all that are proud." Job 41:33-34

HOBBS CITY

Hobbs City surrounds the centrifugal force area in the center of the ship.

Located near the docking bay, with an estimated population of 1,300,000, it is a port of trade with strict security. Nevertheless, illegal immigrants and fugitive criminals are plentiful.

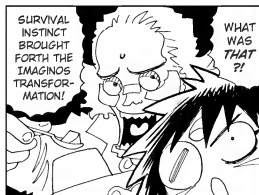
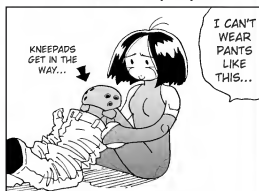
Designated fighting areas allow inhabitants to battle to their hearts' content, which may account for the scarcity of violent crime onboard.



Midnight Battle!!



Catechism of Life!!



Name Reference

When *Battle Angel Alita* was first published in the United States, its translators decided to change many of the names of characters and places to make them more accessible to American readers. We at Kodansha Comics have chosen to keep most of those changes, but we will provide the original names as well in this section.

Battle Angel Alita, Alita:

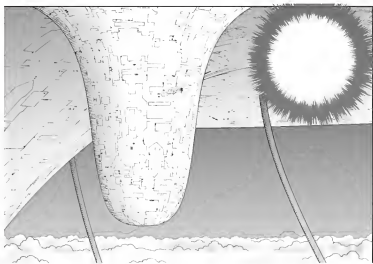
The Japanese title of the original *Alita* series is *Gunnm* (which Kishiro spells *Gunnm*), a unique portmanteau of “gun” and the Japanese word for “dream.” The protagonist’s name in the original Japanese is Garii, which can be spelled “Gally” in English. When the original *Gunnm* was first localized in English in 1995, Viz Media decided to change the name of the main character to Alita, and the series to *Battle Angel Alita*. The original title of this series is *Gunnm: Last Order*. Alita’s other name, Yoko, is a common Japanese name meaning “sun child” (or “yang child”) that happens to be written the same way as the word for proton.

銃夢 GUNNM NEW EDITION **Last Order** Presented by Yukito Kishiro

The logo from the Kodansha Japan edition, upon which this volume is based.

Tiphares, Ketheres:

The city in space and the city in the sky, linked by the orbital elevator, were renamed Ketheres and Tiphares for the first American release. These names were references to the Jewish mystical tradition known as Kabbalah. The original Japanese names were *Yeeru* and *Zaaremu*, or Jeru and Salem, an obvious reference to the historic Earthbound city.



Battle Angel Alita: Last Order

Translation Notes

Battle Angel Alita: Last Order refers to many esoteric scientific concepts that Mr. Kishiro is only too eager to explain in his thorough footnotes, but that doesn't mean there aren't still nuances in the original Japanese that might be tough to put into English. In this section, we'll discuss some of those translation decisions.

Flan, pages 10, 170:

Nova's favorite snack is the custard dessert known as flan or pudding in the West and as *purin* or "prin" in Japan. (For this reason, the "F-Box" was a "P-Box" in the Japanese version.)



Hertza Haeon, page 70:

As is common in manga, the attack names in the series are written in two ways in the Japanese version. One provides the intended pronunciation, while the other provides the intended meaning. In this way, Kishiro indicates that Hertza Haeon is supposed to mean, "perimeter-breaking thrusting fist."

TUNED AR Series 2, page 131:

These Alita copies were called the TUNED Mass Production Models in the Japanese edition. Sechs was originally designated GR-6, but since the main character's name had been changed from Gally to Alita, his model number was switched to AR-6.



Hertza Haeon Doppelt, page 274:

The Japanese version indicates that this simply means “perimeter-breaking thrusting fist, two-handed strike.”

Atman, page 441:

This Sanskrit word for the essential, intrinsic self, or soul, is used in many religious traditions, including Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism. Its root word means “breath.”

Tai-sabaki, page 538:

This martial arts term literally means “body handling.” It refers to repositioning oneself relative to an opponent so as to give oneself an advantage, sometimes during an opponent’s attack.

Geheimnisse, page 545:

This term for a secret Panzer Kunst technique is, appropriately, the word for “secret” in German.



Verschlag, page 545:

In the Japanese, Verschlag means, “laying strike,” as in laying groundwork... or laying an ambush.

Hertza Nadel, page 549:

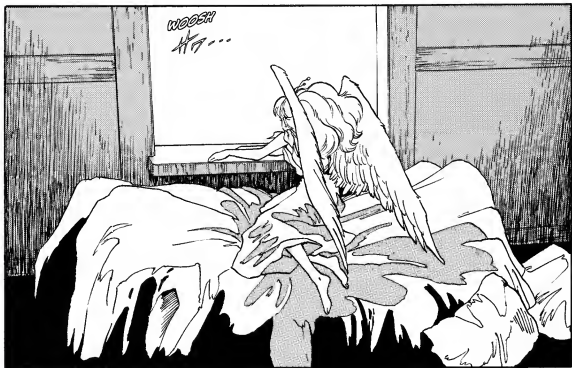
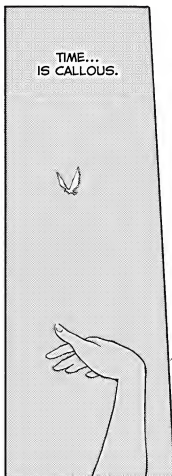
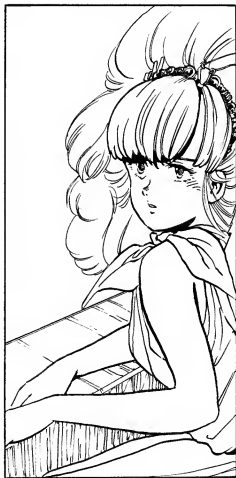
Kishiro indicates that the original meaning of “Hertza Nadel” is “perimeter-breaking bell needle.”

Bonus Manga

Kodansha Comics is pleased to bring you two early short stories by Yukito Kishiro never before published in English. “Fly” (“*Hito*”) originally appeared in the March 1989 issue of the magazine Monthly Comic Comp, published by Kadokawa Shoten, while “The Great Machine” (“*Dai-mashin*”) first ran in the Aug. 25, 1989 issue of Weekly Shonen Sunday from Shogakukan.

-FLY-

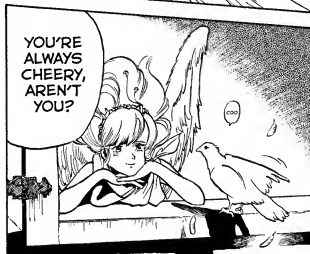






I CAN'T
REMEMBER
WHEN I
STOPPED
BEING
JEALOUS.

I WISH YOU
WOULDN'T
SHOW IT
QUITE SO
MUCH,
THOUGH...



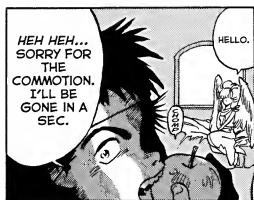
YOU'RE
ALWAYS
CHEERY,
AREN'T
YOU?



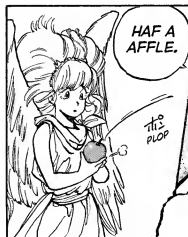
A DAY FEELS
LIKE A
THOUSAND
YEARS.



I
SOMETIMES
WISH IT'D
JUST PASS
BY ALL AT
ONCE.



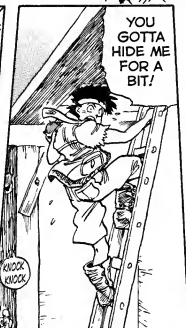
OH... HEY THERE.



it's PLOP



IT'S THE GREAT



KNOCK KNOCK



SO YOU STOLE THIS FROM THE MAN WITH THE CART BELOW?



Y'SEE, ON
TOP OF
SWIPING MY
APPLES, THE
BRAT ALSO
LEFT MY
CART A
SHAMBLES.

YOU HAVEN'T
SEEN A
LITTLE
BUGGER WITH
SOME
APPLES
COME
THROUGH
HERE, HAVE
YOU?

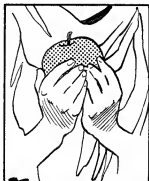
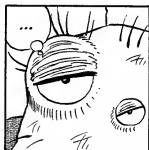


SORRY
FOR
DISTURB-
ING YOU.

WELL...
MUSTA
LOST
'IM. I'M
SO
TIRED.



AW MAN!
WHY'D I
DO THAT?



HE LEFT
SO EASY?!
THAT'S NO
FUN!!





WOOSH

EVERY-
ONE'S
SO
QUICK
TO
GIVE
UP!

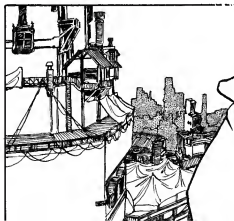
THERE'S
PLENTY TO
EAT IN
THIS CITY.
WHY WOULD
YOU
STEAL?

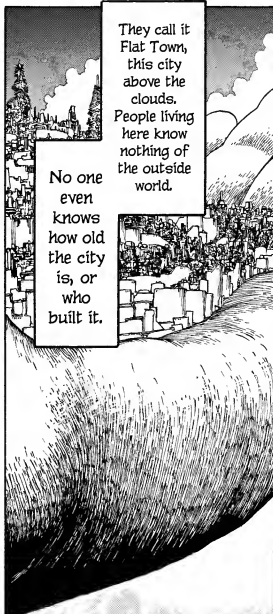
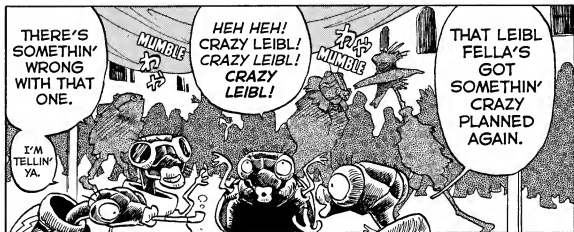
money money money

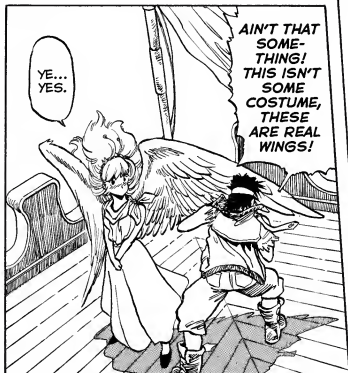
DAMN IT.
WHY? WHY?
WHY?
THOSE
BASTARDS.

...I MET LEIBL.

THAT WAS THE
FIRST TIME...







YE...
YES.

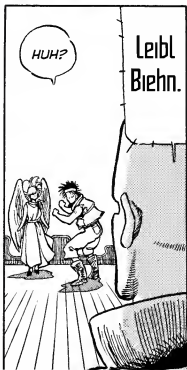
AIN'T THAT
SOME-
THING!
THIS ISN'T
SOME
COSTUME,
THESE
ARE REAL
WINGS!

NO
WAY!



OH
?

HEY,
ANOK!
COME
TAKE A
LOOK
AT
THIS!

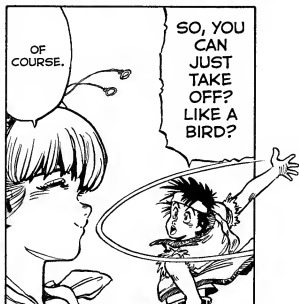


HUH?

Leibl
Biehn.

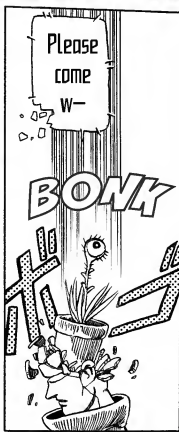
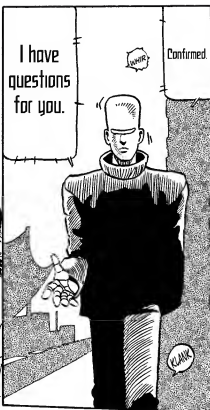


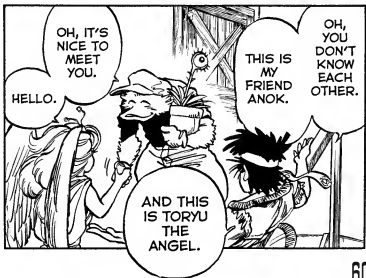
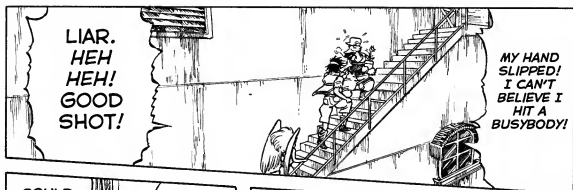
LUCKY.
I'M SO
JEALOUS.

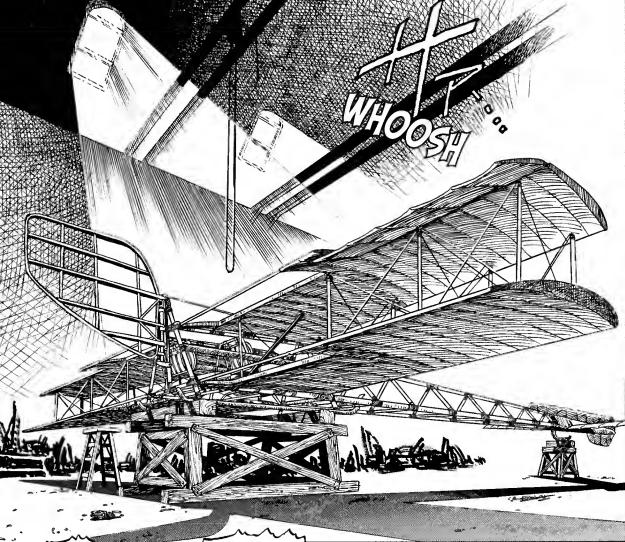


OF
COURSE.

SO, YOU
CAN
JUST
TAKE
OFF?
LIKE A
BIRD?







WANNA
RACE
WHEN
IT'S
DONE,
TORYU?

IT TOOK
ANOK AND
ME ALL OF
TWO YEARS
TO GET THIS
FAR, BUT
NOW IT'S
ALMOST
FINISHED!

I
BUILT IT
FROM A
DIAGRAM
I FOUND
IN A
BOOK
AT THE
LIBRARY.

IT'S AN
AERO-
PLANE.
AIR-O-
PLANE.

WHAT
IS
THIS?

JUMP IN
THERE
AND YOU
CAN
SOAR
THROUGH
THE SKY
LIKE A
BIRD!

THANK
YOU.

HEE
HEE
...



C'MON,
LET'S
SEE
YOU FLY,
TORYU!



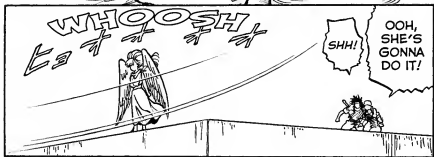
YOU SAID YOU
WERE FEELING
GOOD TODAY,
RIGHT? AND
DIDN'T YOU
TELL ME THAT
YOU'D FLY FOR
ME WHEN YOU
FELT OKAY?

BU...
BUT...

DON'T
PUT HER
ON THE
SPOT.



WHOOSH

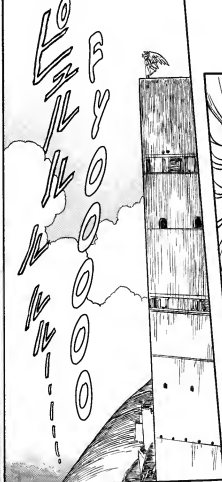


WHOOSH

SHH!

OOH,
SHE'S
GONNA
DO IT!





WINGS AREN'T
ENOUGH BY
THEMSELVES.



WAAAAAH!

DOES
YOUR
TUMMY
HURT OR
SOME-
THING,
TORIYU?

WHA...
WHAT
HAP-
PENED
?





THEY SAY
HIS FIRST
FLIGHT'S
GONNA
BE ON
MONDAY.

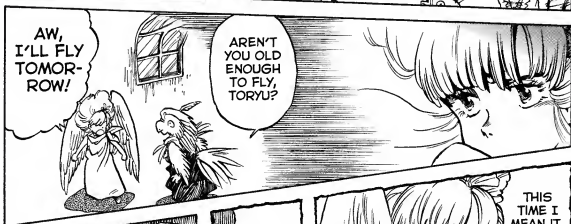
THAT'LL
BE
SOME-
THIN'
TO SEE.

IT'LL
BE A
PUBLIC
EXECU-
TION!

WHAT'S
HE
THINKIN'?

DIDJA
HEAR?

I HEARD!
Y'MEAN
ABOUT
LEIBL'S
AEROPLANE,
RIGHT?



AW,
I'LL FLY
TOMOR-
ROW!

AREN'T
YOU OLD
ENOUGH
TO FLY,
TORYU?



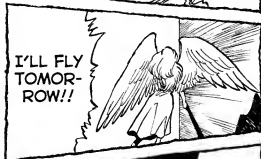
AAH
...

LEMME
GUESS.
YOU'LL
FLY
TOMOR-
ROW,
RIGHT?!

TORYU,
YOU
LIAR!



THIS
TIME I
MEAN IT.
I WILL
FLY
TOMOR-
ROW.



I'LL FLY
TOMOR-
ROW!!



TOMOR-
ROW...
I HAVE
TO
FLY...

WHAT IS IT?
AND WHAT'S
WITH THE
DEPRESSED
VOICE?
HEH HEH.

HEY,
LEIBL...

WE'RE
NOT IN
TROUBLE
FOR
SMASHING
ONE OF
'EM...
ARE WE?

WHADDIT
SAY?!

BY
A
BUSY-
BODY
?!

TRUTH IS,
I GOT
STOPPED
BY A
BUSY-
BODY
YESTER-
DAY...

EVERYONE
IN TOWN
CAN MAKE
FUN OF
US OR
CHEER
US ON,
BUT...

I GOT
EVEN
MORE
SCARED!

ALL OF A
SUDDEN I
DON'T
KNOW
ANYMORE!
I'M
SCARED
TO FLY!
THAT'S
WHY I...

NO.
IT WAS ABOUT
OUR FLIGHT.
IT SAID, "I
ADMIRE YOUR
AMBITION.
EVERYONE IS
COUNTING ON
YOU. I PRAY FOR
YOUR SUCCESS."

N...NO...
WHEN I
HEARD
THAT...

LEB
FLIP

WHA-
WHA-
WHA?!
WHY?
I DON'T
GET IT!

PAK



HEY!
HEY!
HEY!

YOU MEAN
YOU'RE
QUITTIN'?!
CLANK
THUD

IF WE TAKE
OFF, THEN
THAT'S IT!
WE CAN'T
COME BACK.
WHAT'S THE
OUTSIDE
WORLD
LIKE? WE
DON'T KNOW
ANYTHING
ABOUT IT!

E-EVEN IF
WE
ACTUALLY
GET
AIRBORNE,
YOU'VE
GOT TO
KNOW
THERE'S
NO RUNWAY
TO LAND
ON IN FLAT
TOWN...

...

AIN'T WE
BEEN
OVER
THAT A
HUNDRED
TIMES?



SO
WHAT
?!

SEE
YA,
LEIBL.

THIS IS A
GOOD
TOWN.
I GOT
PLANTS
THAT NEED
WATERING.

IT'S
BEEN
FUN
THESE
PAST
TWO
YEARS.

I'M NOT
GOING.
I WAS
UP ALL
NIGHT
THINKING
ABOUT
IT...







PLEASE...
YOU
CAN'T
FLY
AWAY!

STOP,
LEIBL.



HE SAID
YOU WON'T
BE ABLE
TO COME
BACK.
HE SAID
YOU'LL
DIE, LEIBL!

ANOK TOLD ME
ALL ABOUT IT.
I DIDN'T
UNDERSTAND
ALL OF IT, BUT I
KNOW THERE'S
A LOT OF
DANGER!

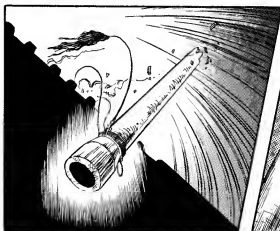
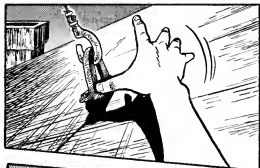
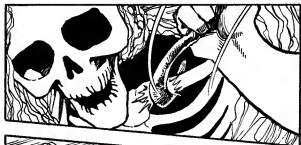
GET OUT
OF HERE,
YOU
LYING
ANGEL!

I DON'T
WANNA
LISTEN TO
YOUR
WHINING!

LEIBL
!!







YOU CAN'T
GIVE
UP
NOW!

JEEZ.
GET A
HOLD OF
YOURSELF,
LEIBL.



HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

CLINK

CLANK

CRASH



I'M NOT BEIN' STUB-BORN!



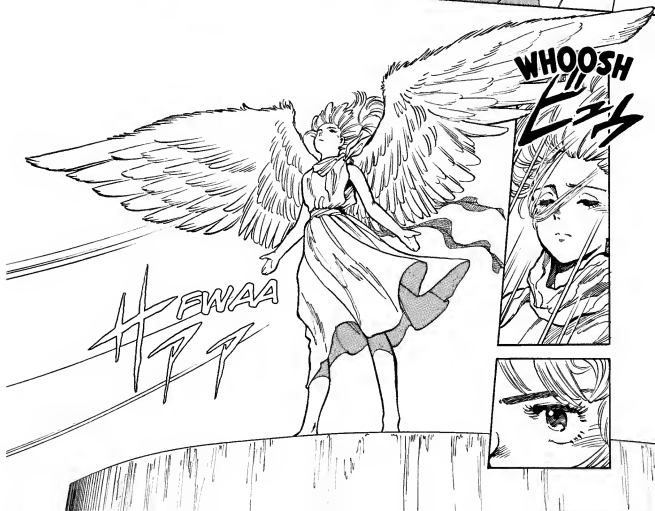
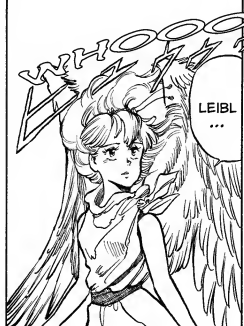
THANKS FOR PUTTING UP WITH ME FOR THESE LAST TWO YEARS, ANOK.

IT'S ALL RIGHT.

I'M SORRY. I'M A COWARD.

UNH



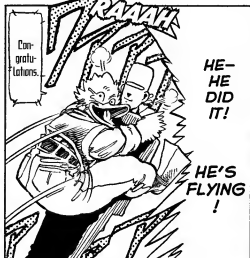
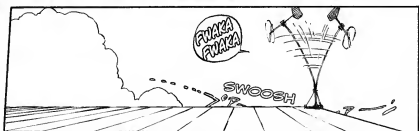
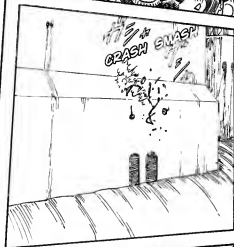
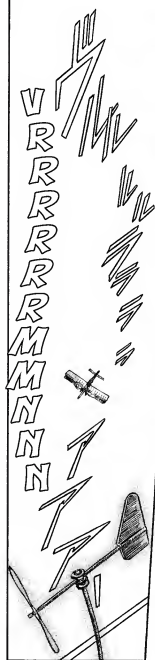


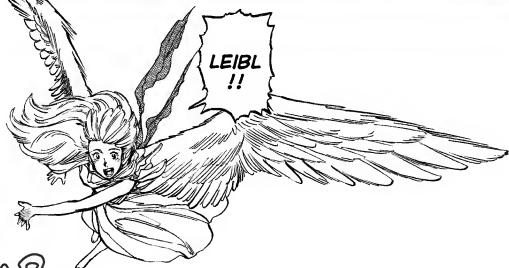
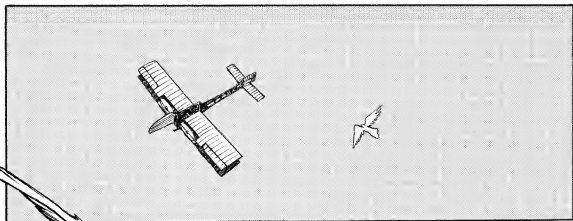


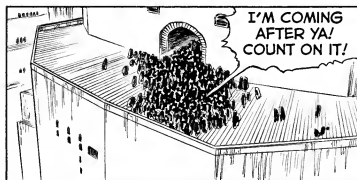
WHEN
YOU
FLY,
YOU'RE
ALWAYS
ALONE.









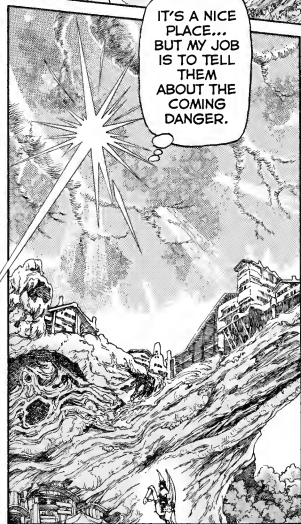


THE GREAT MACHINE





IT'S A NICE
PLACE...
BUT MY JOB
IS TO TELL
THEM
ABOUT THE
COMING
DANGER.

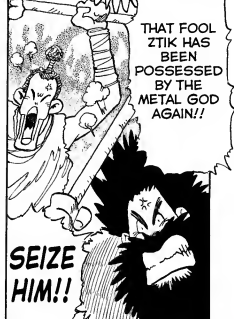
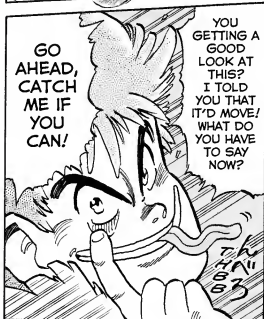


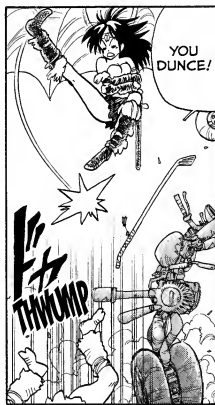
SO THIS IS
THE LAND OF
ABOLIDA!
I'VE HEARD
SO MUCH
ABOUT!!

IT'S
GIGANTIC
...
LOOKS
MORE
LIKE A
MOUNTAIN
THAN A
TREE!!

I CAN SEE
HOUSES
CLINGING TO
THE SIDE OF
THE TREE LIKE
MUSHROOMS!
AMAZING!









PHEW...
WE'RE IN
YOUR
DEBT,
TRAVELER.

TONIGHT'S
MAIN DISH!

DAMN
YOU!
I WON'T
FORGET
THIS!!



THE
MACHINE
IS
COMING
!!

LEAVE
THIS
LAND
BEHIND
AND
RUN!!

MY NAME
IS TRAYA
UZ FU
ROU, THE
LAST
WARRIOR
OF THE
ROU
TRIBE!

I'VE COME
HERE WITH
SOME BAD
NEWS FOR
THE
PEOPLE
OF THIS
COUNTRY
...



A
WOMAN
FROM THE
ROU
TRIBE...
DON'T SEE
MANY OF
THOSE.

WHY WOULD
A WARRIOR
FROM A FAR
EASTERN
MOUNTAIN
TRIBE COME
TO A PLACE
LIKE THIS?



WHAT THE
HECK'S
THAT?

THE
MA-
CHINE
?

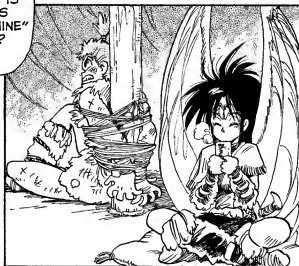
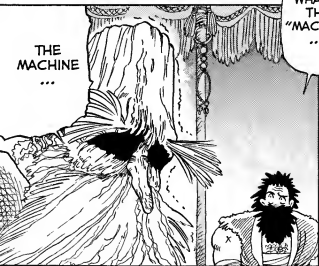


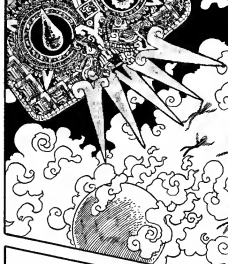
THE
MACHINE
IS COMING
HERE, TO
ABOLIDAI
...?!



ELDER,
WHAT IS
THIS
"MACHINE"
...?

THE
MACHINE
...





A LONG TIME
AGO...
MAN POSSESSED
THE POWER OF
THE METAL GOD
AND USED IT TO
RULE THE
HEAVENS. BUT
BECAUSE OF A
FOOLISH DISPUTE,
IT SELF-
DESTRUCTED,
EVICTING MAN
FROM HIS SEAT
OF CONTROL...

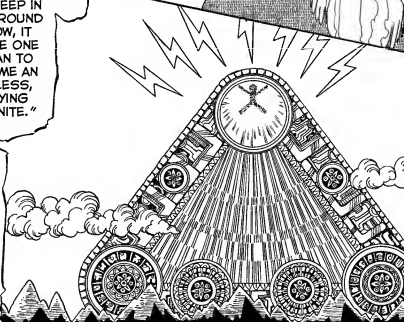
ACCORD-
ING TO
DISTANT
LEGENDS
...



...BEFORE
THE METAL
GOD BEGAN
ITS SLEEP IN
THE GROUND
BELOW, IT
CHOSE ONE
HUMAN TO
BECOME AN
AGELESS,
UNDYING
"INFINITE."

THEN
...

IT MADE THAT HUMAN INTO
THE MASTER OF THE
MOVING MOUNTAIN, THE
INCOMPARABLE
"MACHINE." THEY SAY THE
INFINITE ORDERED THE
MACHINE TO CHASE THE
SUN. HE DID THIS
BECAUSE IF HE COULD
CAPTURE THE SUN AND
MAKE IT HIS, THEN ONCE
AGAIN HE COULD BECOME
RULER OF THE HEAVENS.



COME TO
THINK OF
IT, THE
BIRDS AND
MICE HAVE
BEEN
ACTING
STRANGELY
THESE
LAST FEW
DAYS...

MURMUR

うん
うん
うん

HMM...

THE
MOVING
MOUNTAIN
FROM THAT
LEGEND IS
COMING
HERE TO
ABOLIDAI?!



AND SO,
THE
MACHINE
RUNS ON
FOR
ETERNITY,
CHASING
AFTER
THE
SETTING
SUN.

TO US, THIS GREAT TREE OF ABOLIDAI IS LIFE ITSELF! THINK HARD! CAN YOU TRULY ABANDON THIS TREE AND CONTINUE TO LIVE ON?!

THAT'S RIGHT! THE MACHINE HAS ALREADY CRUSHED HUNDREDS, THOUSANDS OF COUNTRIES!!

IF YOU DON'T PACK UP AND RUN, THEN YOU'RE ALL GOING TO BE FLATTENED!

I WILL NOT LEAVE !!

BOOM



I SHOULD NOT WASTE ANY MORE TIME HERE...

SIGH ...

MOOOAN
AACK...
WAHA WAHA

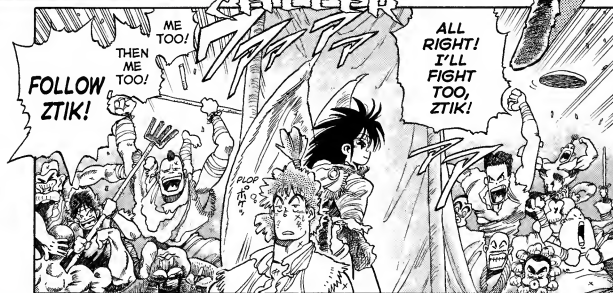
I'LL CAST MY LOT WITH ABOLIDAI ...



SIX YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE ROU CLAN WAS DESTROYED BY THE MACHINE... SINCE THEN, I'VE WATCHED COUNTLESS OTHER COUNTRIES BE SUCKED INTO THE SAME ABYSS OF DESTRUCTION, BUT...

THEN I WILL FIGHT ALONGSIDE YOU!

YOU'RE THE FIRST I'VE MET WHO'S SAID HE'LL STOP THE MACHINE!!



FOLLOW ZTIK!

THEN ME TOO!

ME TOO!

ALL RIGHT! I'LL FIGHT TOO, ZTIK!



RUNNING DOESN'T FIT MY STYLE, AND NEITHER DOES SITTING THERE WHILE I GET RUN OVER!

HEY, ARE YOU SERIOUS ABOUT FIGHTING THE MACHINE?



WELL SAID. YOU NEED SOME REAL GUTS TO EVEN SAY THAT IN THE FACE OF THE MACHINE.

GRIN



QUIT YOUR SNEVELING !!

I'LL STOP THIS "MACHINE" !!

PFFT



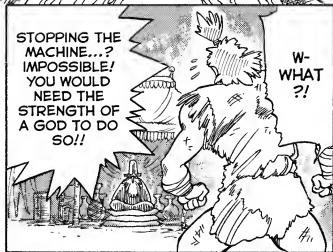


FWA-
HA-
HA !!

FWOOM



IM-
POS-
SIBLE !



STOPPING THE
MACHINE...?
IMPOSSIBLE!
YOU WOULD
NEED THE
STRENGTH OF
A GOD TO DO
SO!!

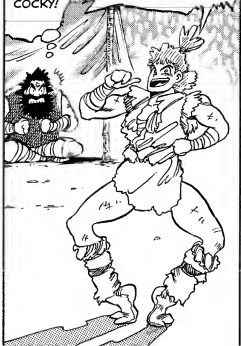
W-
WHAT
?!

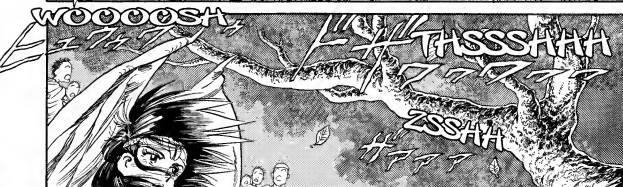


CHEER

HEY, ELDER!
HOW ABOUT YOU
PROMISE TO
MAKE ME THE
NEXT CHIEF IF I
PULL OFF A
MIRACLE AND
MANAGE TO
STOP THIS
MACHINE?!

LOOK AT
THAT
IDIOT
GETTING
ALL
COCKY!







...
GAVE
ME A
HEART
ATTACK
...

MAY
ABOLIDAI
BE WITH
US!!

LONG LIVE
ABOLIDAI!
MAY
ABOLIDAI
BE WITH
US!



YES!
WHOEVER
CAN STOP
THE MACHINE
WILL BE
MADE
SUCCESSOR
!

SO
YOU'RE
OKAY
WITH THE
DEAL TO
MAKE ME
THE NEXT
CHIEF,
TOO?!



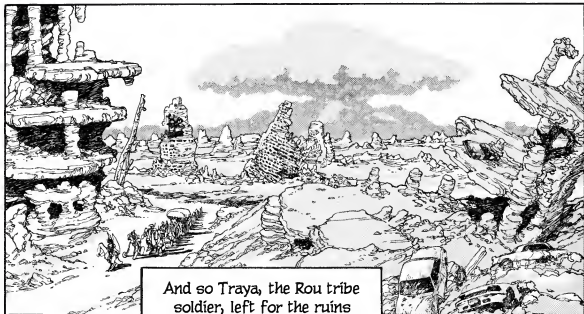
CAN I
JUST
TAKE
THIS?



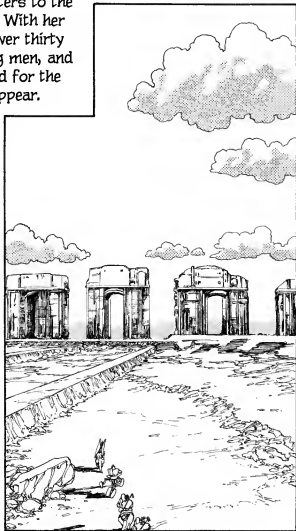
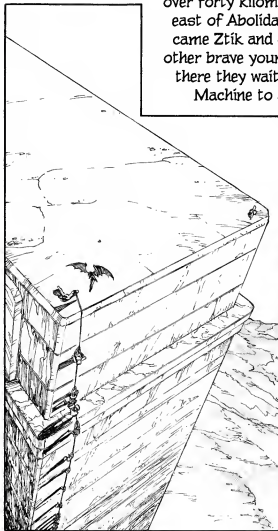
THE HOLY
FRUIT OF
ABOLIDAI
HAS
FALLEN
INTO THE
HANDS OF
THE
OUTSIDER
!!

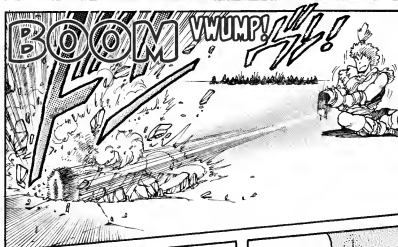
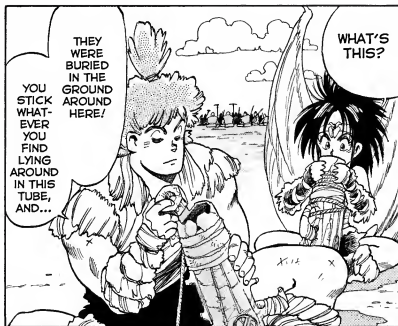
IT'S AN
ORACLE!!
A
MESSAGE
FROM THE
GODS!!

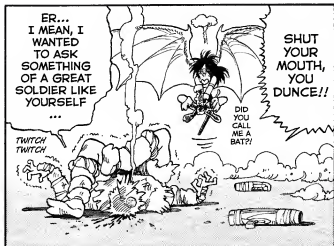
THE GREAT
TREE SPIRIT
OF ABOLIDAI
IS TELLING US
TO DO AS THE
OUTSIDER
SAYS!!



And so Traya, the Rou tribe soldier, left for the ruins over forty kilometers to the east of Abolidai. With her came Ztik and over thirty other brave young men, and there they waited for the Machine to appear.







ER...
I MEAN, I
WANTED
TO ASK
SOMETHING
OF A GREAT
SOLDIER LIKE
YOURSELF
...

SHUT
YOUR
MOUTH,
YOU
DUNCE!!

DID
YOU
CALL
ME A
BAT?!

TWITCH
TWITCH



WHAT
WAS
THAT?!



I LOVE TINKERING WITH
MACHINES FROM LONG AGO,
BUT THE VILLAGE SAYS THAT
DOING THAT IS TABOO!
BECAUSE OF THAT, EVERYONE'S
SHUNNED ME AND MADE ME AN
OUTCAST SINCE I WAS A KID,
SAYING THAT I WAS
POSSESSED BY THE METAL
GOD, OR THAT I WASN'T
COOPERATIVE...!

BUT NOW
I'M GONNA
BECOME A
HERO AND
SHOW ALL
OF THEM!!

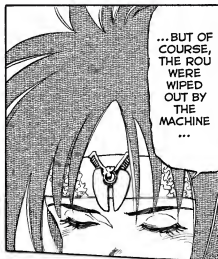


HMM
...

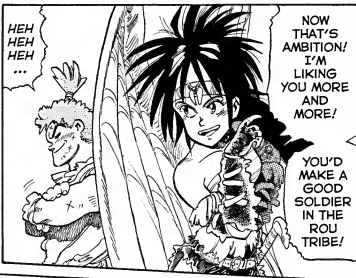


I DON'T
CARE WHAT
IT TAKES, I
ABSOLUTELY
WANNA BE
THE CHIEF!!
AND SO...
THAT'S
WHY...!!

THAT'S WHY
I WANTED
TO ASK
YOU TO LET
ME TAKE
DOWN THE
INFINITE!



...BUT OF COURSE,
THE ROU
WERE
WIPED
OUT BY
THE
MACHINE
...



HEH
HEH
HEH
...

NOW
THAT'S
AMBI-
TION!
I'M
LIKING
YOU MORE
AND
MORE!

YOU'D
MAKE A
GOOD
SOLDIER
IN THE
ROU
TRIBE!



FOR
THE
HONOR
OF THE
TRIBE!!
© SCHMUSA

AND MY
FATHER,
THE CHIEF
OF THE
TRIBE,
LED THEM
ALL...

THE DAY THE
MACHINE
APPEARED IN
THE VALLEY OF
THE ROU
TRIBE...
EVERY MAN AND
WOMAN TOOK
UP SWORDS
AND BRAVELY
STOOD
AGAINST IT!!

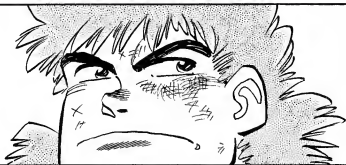
JUST WATCH,
TRAYA!
I WILL
STAKE
THE ROU
NAME ON
STOPPING
THE
MACHINE!

I WASN'T ABLE
TO FLY BECAUSE
OF AN INJURY,
AND I ENDED UP
BEING THE ONLY
SURVIVOR.
MY FATHER
WASN'T ABLE TO
STOP THE
MACHINE...

FATHER

CHARGE

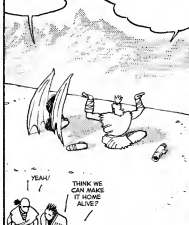
I'M GOING
TO STOP
THE
MACHINE!!



THAT!
THAT'S
WHAT I
WANT.



A
REWARD
?!
IN THAT
CASE...



I'LL GIVE
YOU ANY
REWARD
YOU'D LIKE!
WHAT DO
YOU WANT?

YEAH!

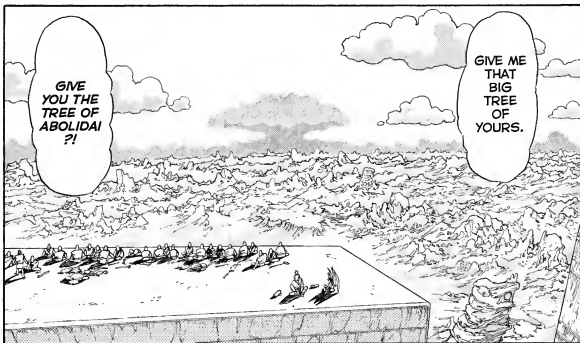
THINK WE
CAN MAKE
IT HOME
ALIVE?



AND
MORE
IMPOR-
TANTLY,
WHAT DO
YOU
THINK?
I MIGHT
BE
CHIEF!

WHAT A
STUPIDLY
OPTIMISTIC
MAN...

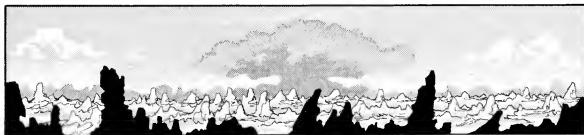
GIVE
YOU THE
TREE OF
ABOLIDAI
?!
?



GIVE ME
THAT
BIG
TREE
OF
YOURS.

IF THAT
HAPPENS,
THEN I'D LIKE
TO BUILD A
HOUSE ON
THE TOP OF
THAT TREE
AND LIVE
THERE...

IF WE CAN STOP
THE MACHINE,
THEN I WON'T
HAVE TO TRAVEL
FROM COUNTRY
TO COUNTRY IN
ORDER TO WARN
PEOPLE OF THE
DANGER ANY
MORE.



RUMBLE

RUMBLE

After one
more day
and one
more
night had
passed...

**AHA
HA
HA
!!**

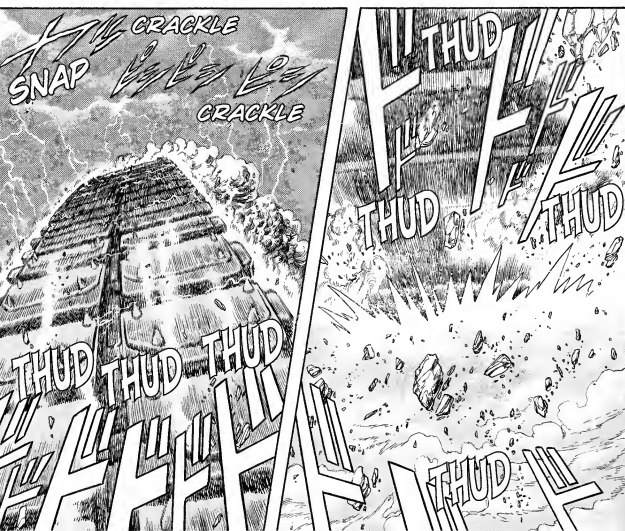
WE'LL
HAVE TOTAL
CONTROL!!

**HAHAHA!!
I'LL BE
THE CHIEF,
AND YOU'LL
BE THE
KEEPER OF
THE TREE!
THIS IS
AMAZING!!**



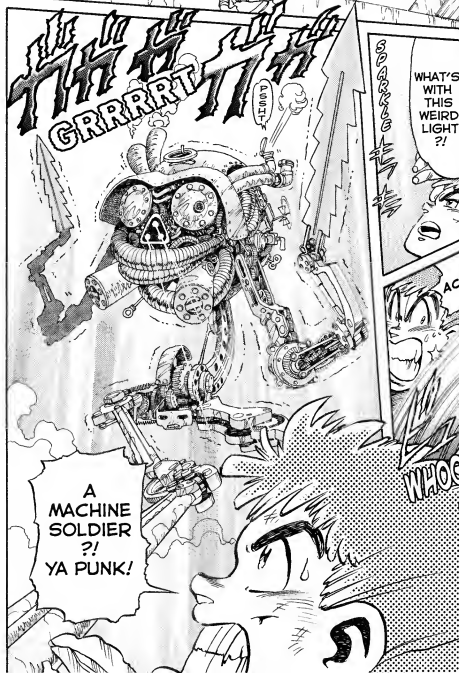


The
Machine
appeared
!!





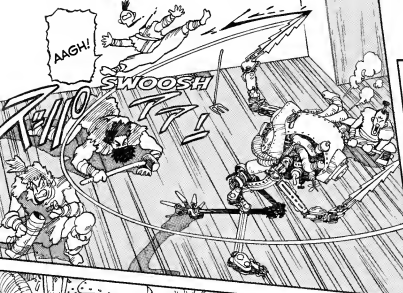




OHO-
HOHO!
YOU
BUNCH
OF
SPINE-
LESS
PUNKS!

EEEK!

AHH!



AHAHA!
LOOK,
IT'S ALL
WOBBLY!

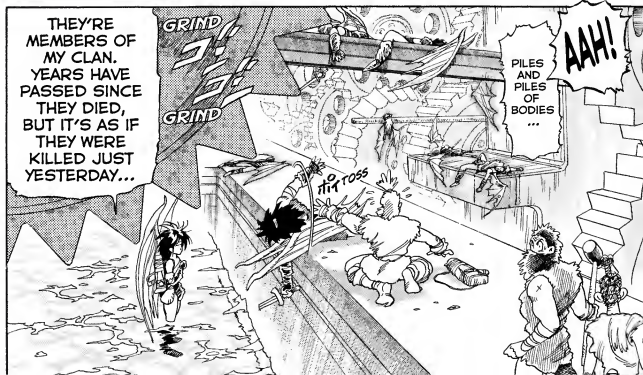


WHAAGH?
NO...!!



OH,
TRA-
YA
...!







ALL
BECAUSE
OF THE
CURSED
LIGHT
COMING
FROM THE
"SPACE OF
THE
INFINITE."

NATURE
ISN'T ABLE
TO TAKE
ITS
COURSE
INSIDE OF
THIS
MACHINE.

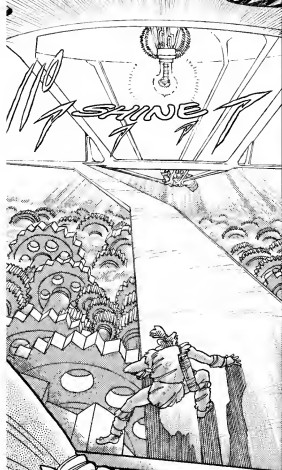
LEAVES SITTING
UNDER
THOUSANDS OF
YEARS OF
RAINWATER AREN'T
ROTTING... THE
SEEDS AND
SPROUTS LOOK
NEW, AND THE IRON
ISN'T RUSTING...

IF THAT'S
THE SPACE
OF THE
INFINITE,
THEN THAT
MUST BE
WHERE THE
INFINITE IS!!

I'LL LEAVE
THE RANK
AND FILE
TO YOU
UNDER-
LINGS!

SINCE
WHEN
ARE WE
HIS
UNDER-
LINGS?!

AAGH!
ZTIK,
ANOTHER
HUGE
WAVE OF
MACHINE
SOLDIERS
IS HERE!



JUST
A
LITTLE
FAR-
THER.

HAAH
HAAH



EVEN
TRAYA'S
OLD MAN
COULDN'T
TAKE HIM
OUT.

I WONDER
JUST
WHAT KIND
OF GUY
THE
INFINITE
IS...

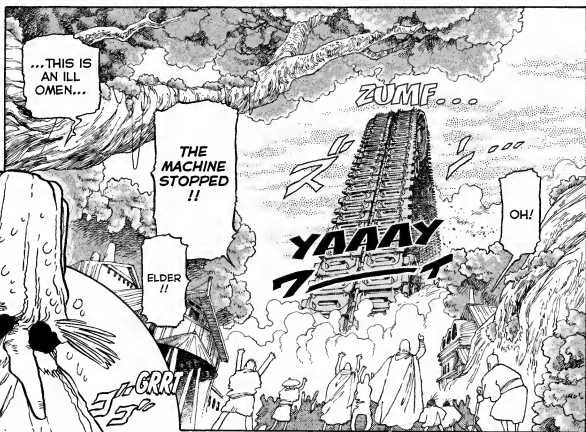
ARE
YOU
THE
INFINITE
?!

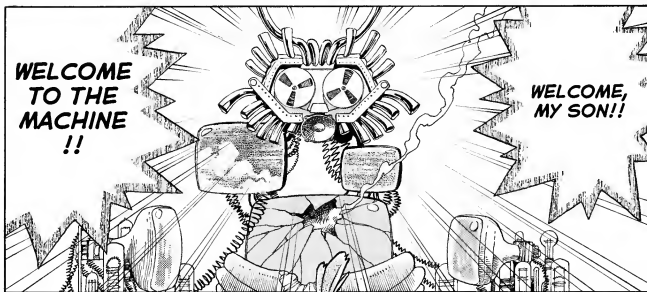
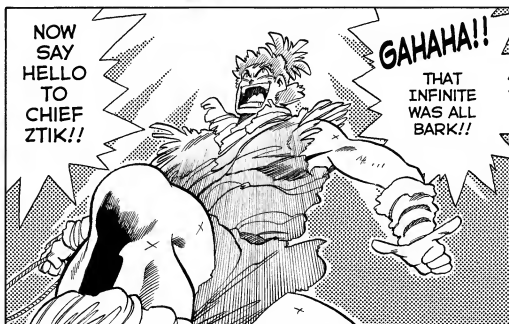
HAAH
HAAH

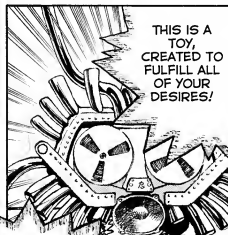
ZAKK

HA
HA
HA!

HEH
HEH
...







THIS IS A
TOY,
CREATED TO
FULFILL ALL
OF YOUR
DESIRES!

NOW
COME,
RIDE
WITH THE
MACHINE
!!

AAGH!
THE MACHINE
HAS
STARTED
TO MOVE
AGAIN!!

キヤ AAHH!!

IT'S
ALL OVER!

THIS TAPE
WILL NOW
AUTOMATI-
CALLY
END.



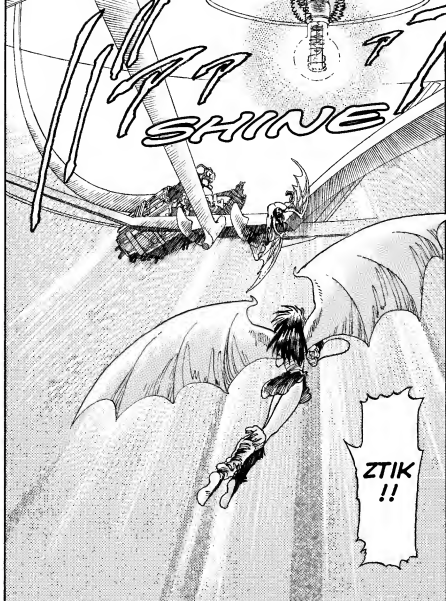
WOOSH

AAGH!
WHAT IS
ZTIK
DOING
OVER
THERE?!

CLANG

DID HE
LOSE TO
THE
INFINITE?





PLEASE,
GOD, LET
THAT
DUNCE
BE SAFE!

WHERE'S
SOMETHING
I CAN USE
AS AMMO?!

THE ACORN
FROM
ABOLIDA!...
THIS'LL DO!

ZTIK
!!



I, ZTIK,
HAVE
BECOME
THE
INFINITE!!

AHA
HA
HA
HA
HA!!

WHAT ABOUT THE ORIGINAL INFINITE THAT WAS HERE....?

Y-YOU IDIOT....!!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING...?

WHAT ABOUT THE ORIGINAL INFINITE THAT WAS HERE....?

Y-YOU IDIOT....!!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING...?

THAT'S
WHAT THE
"INFINITE"
REALLY IS!

N-NOW I
SEE...
THE
HUNTER
GETS
TURNED
INTO THE
PREY...

IT WAS
A TRAP...
SET BY
THE
METAL
GOD...

N-NOW I
SEE...
THE
HUNTER
GETS
TURNED
INTO THE
PREY...

IT WAS
A TRAP...
SET BY
THE
METAL
GOD...

HE DOESN'T
REALLY EXIST
ANYWHERE,
AND THAT'S
WHY NO ONE
HAS BEEN
ABLE TO STOP
THE MACHINE!

OH!
THAT'S

THAT'S
MY...

...
FATHER
...
HEH...

THAT'S
MY...

...
FATHER
...
HEH...

AAAGH!!

IT'S
ALL
OVER
!!

I ONLY HAVE
ONE BULLET.
IF I SHOOT ZTK
AND KILL HIM,
THEN THE
MACHINE WILL
STOP FOR
NOW...

BUT I'M
SURE THAT
SOMEDAY,
SOMEONE
WILL MAKE IT
START
AGAIN!!

I HAVE TO
DESTROY THE
MACHINE
ITSELF! I NEED
A WAY RIGHT
NOW TO STOP
THE MACHINE
WITH JUST ONE
SHOT...!!

WOO-HOO!!

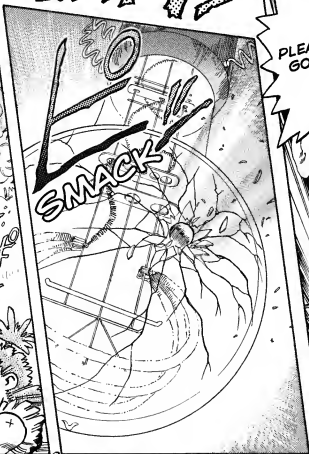
SOME
WAY
...!!

KRAK

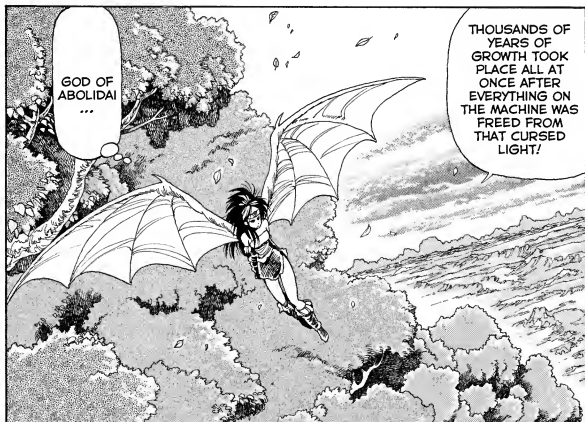
KRAK

KRAK

GWOOSH

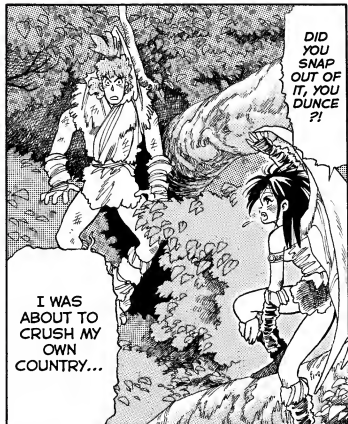






GOD OF
ABOLIDAI
...

THOUSANDS OF
YEARS OF
GROWTH TOOK
PLACE ALL AT
ONCE AFTER
EVERYTHING ON
THE MACHINE WAS
FREED FROM
THAT CURSED
LIGHT!



I WAS
ABOUT TO
CRUSH MY
OWN
COUNTRY...

DID
YOU
SNAP
OUT OF
IT, YOU
DUNCE
?!



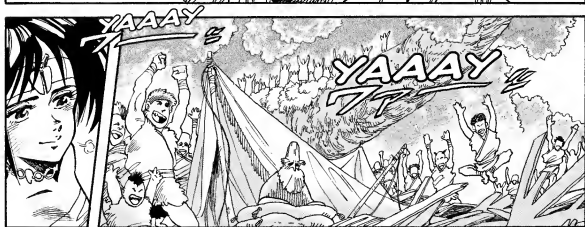
WIPE



...I
CAN'T
BELIEVE
IT...

IT WAS
TERRIFY-
ING...

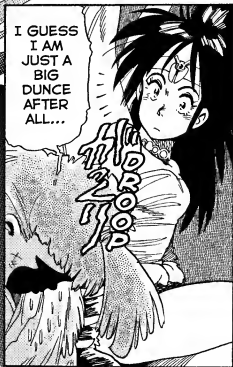
THE MOMENT I
MOVED THE
MACHINE,
EVERYTHING
ELSE, FROM
OTHER PEOPLE
TO THE TREE,
ALL SEEMED
SO SMALL.
IT WAS LIKE I
COMPLETELY
STOPPED
CARING ABOUT
EVERYONE...

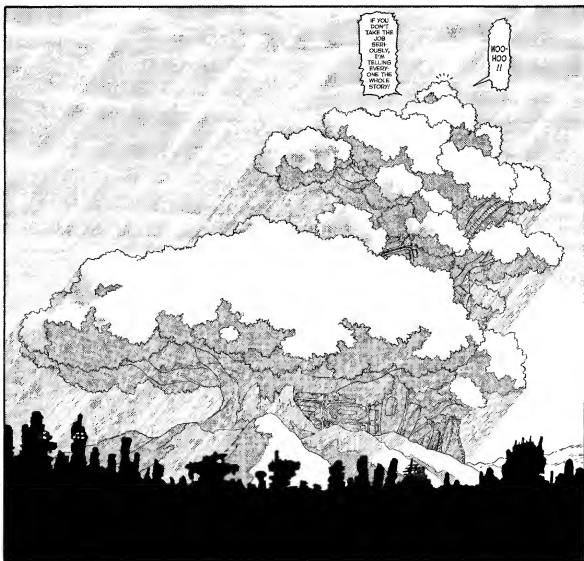


YOU'LL
MAKE A
GREAT
CHIEF!!

ZTIK!
YOU
DISCOVERED
WHO YOU
REALLY
ARE...

I GUESS
I AM
JUST A
BIG
DUNCE
AFTER
ALL...





“Fly” & “The Great Machine” Translation Notes

“Fly,” page 599:

The Japanese title of this story is “Hito.” The word *hito* simply means “person,” but instead of using the usual character for “person” Kishiro writes it with two characters that, though also pronounced *hito*, actually mean “flying person.” It obviously applies equally well to Toryu and Leibl.

Ichimura, page 607, 646:

We’re not entirely sure, but this may refer to Satoru Ichimura, a contemporary of Kishiro’s from the late eighties.

“The Great Machine,” page 629:

This title (“*Dai-mashin*” in the original Japanese) is yet another of Kishiro’s multi-layered Japanese puns. The simplest way to translate the name is “Great Machine,” but rather than use the standard spelling of the word “machine,” Kishiro uses two kanji characters that can be pronounced *machin*. These two characters mean “scraping god,” certainly an accurate description of a fantastically massive tank that pulverizes entire civilizations.



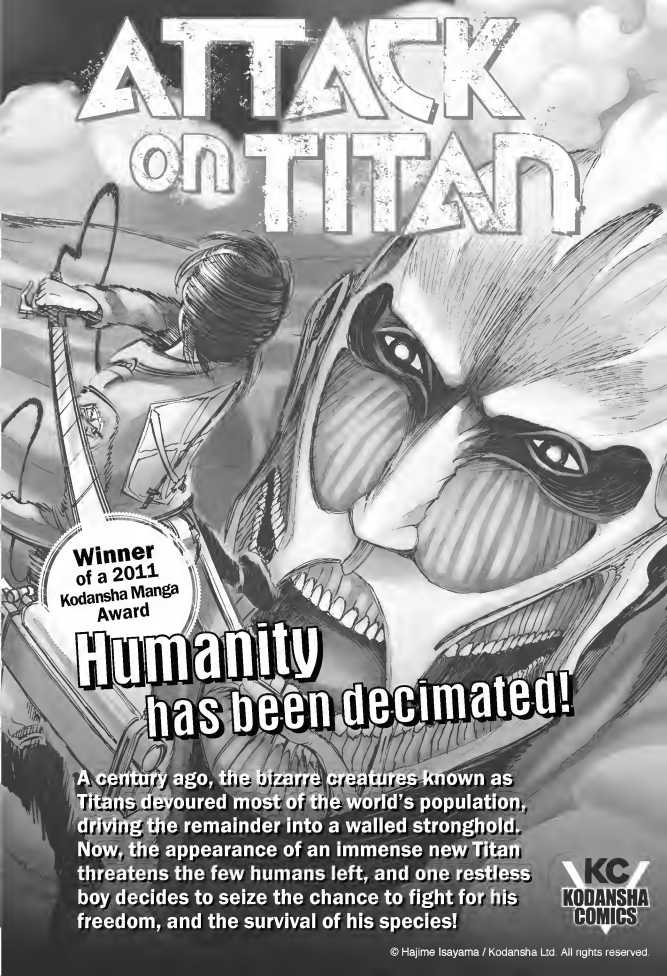
“Beware of fire,” page 637:

The sign on this post originally read “*hi no yojin*,” a Japanese phrase traditionally used to remind people to be careful of fire, which was a particularly potent threat before the 20th century, when most Japanese homes and buildings were made almost entirely of wood.

“Welcome to the machine,” page 658:

Kishiro later confirmed that this is indeed a reference to the Pink Floyd song of the same name, from the 1975 album “Wish You Were Here.”

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"The Great Machine" translation: Ko Ransom

"Fly" & "The Great Machine" lettering: Bobby Timony

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